

Kuro no Maou

– The Black Demon King –

- Volume 15 -

Student of Spada

AUTHOR:
Hishi Kage Dairi

ARTIST:
Morino Hiro

[Translated by: Shikkaku | Entruce Translations]

CHAPTER 230

THE PRICE OF JUSTICE

Southwest territory of Spada, the surroundings near the national border adjacent to the neighboring country Fauren, has turned a gently-sloping hilly area.

Nearby the not-paved highway with only wide breadth, which connects the two countries, two tents had been set up in the campground.

Eddie, the Knight candidate who just rose up to Rank 2 the other day, along with his classmate Shena, kept guard while encircling the bonfire.

Eddie had brigh brown hair while Shena had light green pigtail hair, they both didn't had any appearance worth standing out, their height or physique, as a human, could be said average, at a glance both would seem like a normal Student couple.

However, their relationship is not something that erotic, even the status quo is only because their party is collaborating for accomplishing a quest.

Although, they were en route back to Spada after accomplishing the quest, the danger of fighting the monster has long since gone.

「Fuwaa」

Therefore it can't be helped that Eddie is relaxed to the point of yawning by opening his mouth.

「Why are yawning, undisciplined」

However looks like Eddie behavior wasn't favorable to Shena, who wore glasses and looked just like the epitome of too-serious person.

Instead of a glint in eye, the somewhat big round glasses glittered.

「Why'd you care, let me yawn」

「Just because we are going along the highway doesn't mean monsters won't appear, we should not let our guard down——」

「Argh, why are you like that prez」

The two quarrel while being illuminated by the bonfire, though strangely there was no dangerous feeling around them, means that something like this was daily routine, even if the members who were sleeping currently were to see it, they would back off saying Even a Dog won't Barge in a Lover's Quarrel.

「Geez, can't ya become more ladylike and refined like Erina-san」

「Again with Erina-san, how about you give up, she is not a person you can ever reach upto」

「L-like 'ell it matters you!」

Having his weak spot hurt, Eddie ends up giving an overreacted easy to understand reaction.

Seeing him like that, Shenn, with a sigh filled with disgust, continued.

「Stop dreaming, and try to think more realistically, there are other girls, right.....」

「Huh? What do you mean by other girls, I'm only devoted to Erina-san, that's what I resolved when I first saw her」

「Geez, you're truly an idiot」

Seeing Shena pouting, Eddie tried to think that what made her that displeased, unfortunately he had no answer.

「How 'bout ya then, you been in them magic studies since old days, you ain't got any single man you love, right?」

「H-Huh! I, not really, have any one like that.....」

To Shena saying that while turning her face away in a vague manner of speaking, gave Eddie a hint, and he started the pursuit,

「Who is it!」

Or he was about to start, when he sensed the presence of someone approaching the campground, and shouted to know the intruder's identity.

Listening more carefully, the sound of footsteps and groan can be heard, looks like the opponent had got no intention of hiding their presence.

A breath later Shena too stood up, and for confirming the identity of that someone on the other side of the darkness of night, she waved her favorite wand.

「Torch」 — ثلاثاء تضيء شمعة ضوء

After the fast chanting, a single magical torch appeared in mid-air and shone upon the direction the presence was coming from.

「What, a girl?」

The one coming while facing them was, without a doubt, just like Eddie said, a human girl.

Her appearance wasn't like that of them two, wearing equipments for quests, but she wore thin casual clothing one would find in any rural village.

Albeit the highway reaches villages, but for a girl resembling a village girl, loitering here in this late in night is just too unnatural.

They thought that she might be some sort of Undead, but

「H-help.....Help.....please.....」

The moment they heard that sorrowful yell, Eddi put the sword back in scabbard, whilst Shena put down her wand.

Looking carefully, her clothes seemed to have been violently torn; her feet had no shoes or sandal, completely barefooted. It was easy to understand that she wasn't in a normal condition.

「O-oi, are you alright!？」

.

.

.

Hearing the story from the now-under-protection girl, she seemed to have escaped from bandits.

「Fuck, how dare they do something this cruel」

They understood themselves about how this girl who seemed two or three years than themselves, got into that state.

Most probably, she found a gap among the bandits who would do her, and ran away.

「This ain't good, for bandits to camp near this place」

「Let's increase our vigilance, they would surely come looking for this girl」

The male members of Eddie's party, and female members from Shena's party were now awake, armed, and ready to go.

With a nervous expression, everyone payed attention to the surroundings.

「U-um, please, help」

To the girl, who was petitioning while crying, Shena smiled gently as to make her relieved and said.

「It's fine, we would protect you」

「Can't say any better myself, after all we are the Knights from Spada, we will protect you」

Eddie, who just said such cool-seeming words, retorts came from surroundings 「Aren't you still a Knight Apprentice」

But, though they were Knight Candidates, their spirits were already of a full-fledged Knight, none of them thought of leaving this pitiful girl on her own.

「Hey, look o'er there, seems like them bandits sniffed our place too」

On the end of the point Eddie pointed towards, a line of lights approached them from straight ahead.

Judging from speed they were, without a doubt, riding horses, there was no way them, who were on foot, can overrun them.

「It's going to be battle time, everyone, put all you got into it」

4 Boys, 4 Girls, in total 8 Knight candidates swear by the pride of Spada Knights, to successfully overcome this hardship.

Just like when they fought against monsters, after positioning the battle positions of vanguard and rear guard, finally, from the other side of darkness, the bandits appeared.

「Good evening, when I thought just what adventurer it might be, hehe, turns out to be young lads and lasses, are you Spada's students, hm?」

The person who appeared head first was a person equipped same as us, but had a vulgar feeling seeping out of him, the one which adventurers don't reek of.

Continuing after the man, as if to oppose Eddie's party which was in formation, the bandits dismounted from the horse and stood in a line.

As for numbers bandits were on the more side, albeit they weren't able to confirm their exact numbers due to darkness, they felt that the difference in their war potential based on numbers wasn't fatal.

Eddie and others were still 2nd Year students, but have worked hard in everyday training, not like the mish-mashed bandits who haven't even learned a martial skill to full satisfaction.

Conversely on the bandits side, they are showing conceited expressions as if thinking they would never be defeated by some children.

The turbulent air flows among the two parties, but neither take out the sword from the scabbard, a momentous deadlock state was born.

「Hey listen, don't get that worked up, we are just searching for someone」

Looks like they made the man standing head first as the negotiations representative, and weren't going to assault immediately.

「We saw no one 'ere」

As the leader of boys' party, Eddie spoke as the representative.

The girl under protection is hiding in the tent, there's no way she could be spotted from the outside.

If they could get over this situation by feigning ignorance, it would be for the best, but,

「Heey bruh, this place is just fucking too spacious meadows, given that the only place to hide can be inside that tent, can't ya let us check it?」

The reason they weren't able to let the girl get away before the bandits came was because this place is a spacious meadow with nothing that can hide.

「I refuse」

「Even we aren't you brats' errand boys, so let us confirm the thing that needs to be confirmed, or it ain't going to be good」

The baldie, while scratching his head and showing a smile saying he had seen through everything, said those words.

「Ain't I telling you that I refuse, fucking get lost」

s-i-g-h, while heaving an exaggerated sigh the man continued his words.

「Heeey, bruh, are you mistaking us for bandits or something, aren't you?」

「.....What the fuck?」

「We are the so-called slave dealers, and chasing after our escaped commodity is our REALLY important job, so we are currently doing our work」

The services of slaves, though is under some agreements depending on the country in Pandora, but is not fundamentally banned.

Even in Spada the Slave market, publicly exists.

「If you're deliberately hiding her, then you will become the bandits. We are legally doing our slave trading, having our commodity pillaged, we won't keep quiet. But, if you are to give us back obediently, then everything's over, both of us would sleep peacefully tonight」

The eight boys and girls trembled.

If whatever the man said is truth, then they would be accused guilty for assisting the escapement of the slave.

「Slave, huh, I see, but I ain't gonna blindly accept whatever you say」

「Hey hey, that is——」

「And more than anything, the violence against slaves is banned, so you will be accused for inflicting violence on her!」

Shena spoke sharply, continuing after Eddie.

Slaves are approved of in Spada, though, it's not like their human rights are all revoked, they are not to be subjected to absolute dominance, the thing which appeared in the unpleasant past history.

In city states that approved of slavery, starting from Spada, in relation to the treatment of slaves, the responsibility of the owner is decided by the law.

Though the girl might have dropped herself to a slave, the sexual abuse to her is not allowed.

In the very least, to own a slave publicly adhering to laws like this is needed.

「Tch, you damn fucking brats, tryn' to be smart」

The man cursed as if spitting out, but, the Knight candidates have already taken out their swords, drawn out their bows, cocked their wands, and were showing their fighting spirit without backing off even a single step.

「Shut up you damn old fuck, come at us from anywhere」

「Don't underestimate adults you fucking brats, hey, all of you, get 'em——That is what I would actually want to say right now, but bruh you and your friends all look quite strong, fighting you is scaring us a liiiittllllleee, frankly speaking」

「.....はぁ？」

「.....Huh?」

Just when they thought that those people would come at them in rage, the man showed a frivolous smile and didn't show even the slightest of hostility.

The men standing behind him, though had weapons in their hands, but had no intention to fight.

「Well, we got bodyguards for times like this, teaches', leaving 'em to you!」

As if responding the voice of man, three shadows appeared right in front of Eddie and others.

「Leave it to me, it's finally my screen time! I will make these brats into wrenched shapes!!」

The tallest shadow was an 2 meters big golem.

Holding a mace and tower shield, which correspond to its great body, in the hands, the single eye on its head glittered red ominously.

「What, aren't they truly just brats」

The next big shadow, though smaller than golem but bigger than a normal human, was a giant with shaved head.

Wearing simple leather armor with a somewhat large battle axe in hands, but from the man's bulged muscles one can't help but feel the power hidden in them.

「.....Fumu」

The last one was, standing besides the two big ones, seemingly small, but in truth was almost the same height as of Eddie or a little shorter.

The blond man with vacant eyes, had his skin strangely pale, the face and body both seemed haggard, at a glance he seemed like a seriously sick person.

But, wearing a worn-out black coat along with a special sword called 『Katana』 hanging from the waist, he seemed more like a ghost making one feel eeriness and Goosebumps.

「Hahahahaha, there's new commodities in such an unexpected place, Teachs', if possible capture them girls alive!」

Like that, the young Knight Candidates with future prospects, would get to know the price of doing justice without power, with their bodies.

CHAPTER 231

COME, THE FOREST OF TENTACLES

Great Forest Latifundia is a standard dungeon called as Forest of Lati in a friendly manner by the adventurers of Spada.

But, in the deepest part are a variety of rank 4 monsters lurking, if a low ranked adventurer carelessly wandered in there, well confirm the death notice.

No, even if not going into deepest part, the places where skilled adventurers have to face dangers; those monsters may appear out of blue.

For instance, a place with innumerable ivy wriggling in a zigzag form, it's exactly that place.

A sweet bad smell is floating in the air, which is enough to make one choke, if a person breathes it in, regardless of gender, their lower body would heat up.

This smell promoting sexual desires apparently is emitted from the mucus secreted by these wriggling ivy.

Every ivy, upon touching hands, seems bewildered, they are all covered in mucus shining like greasy oil, after experiencing the effect of this thing which can be called as natural aphrodisiac, even the scene of getting entangled by trees would seem obscene.

No, it's not like these ivy acquired the power to produce mucus with such lewd effect by pure coincidence.

This ivy, officially called as Morjura, got this type of evolution for implementing a more efficient and effective way to breed.

The original body of Morjura is a ball shaped by the ivy clumped together; its approx size is of 1 meter.

These long ivy that protrude from there, properly called as organ like 'tentacles', perform movements and attacks, even capturing the prey.

If it's just one of them then its body also is small, the power in tentacles too is not too strong, if one has even a little of reasoning power to hold back this horny sexual desire, these aren't monsters that people cannot defeat.

However, maybe it's as expected, they move in crowds.

It's not just advantageous in numbers, but also the smell of emitted mucus is denser, showing the intensive effect of changing a person into beast within less than a few seconds.

With the scene of Morjura covering the forest with slippery stuff, even a rank 3 adventurers would hesitate to attack if they haven't downed a detoxification potion beforehand.

On top of tormenting the opponent with this intense aphrodisiac, Morjura breeds.

As to what it exactly is, is something that is about to be performed that it had captured a new prey.

The pitiful prey was a pure white Pegasus, seeing two wings growing on the back resembling that of swans' specifying that this was a female Pegasus.

The pure-blooded maiden is used mostly as the symbol of purity, but there is no guarantee whether this Pegasus is a virgin or not.

Just, she can be a pure lovely virgin, or a mother of a child, or a whore that opens her legs for anyone, no, more precisely, to Morjura, the differences of men and women of all ages doesn't matter.

Even if it's a monster or a person, the thing Morjura does is always the same, hence, even capturing this beautiful Pegasus, it won't feel anything other than getting a new prey, well that only works if they have emotions.

With the effect of Morjuras' aphrodisiac stuff, the Pegasus lost the power to either fly in air, stand on ground, and falls on the ground.

The short-tempered tentacles have started to wrap around the white body, finally seeing the Pegasus stopped moving, the surrounding Morjura, simultaneously, extended their tentacles.

The tentacles covered with transparent mucus head towards that 'hole' which any animal would have.

Those are the mouth for eating, nose for sniffing smell, anus for excretion, of course, also the sexual organ for producing children.

In a hole of that sort of hole, the tentacles of Morjura enter as if competing with other tentacles, without any restraint, gentleness or even leniency.

The mucus covering the tentacles worked as a lube, the tentacles entered the hole without any resistance while making slippery sounds.

Feeling her whole body being pierced the Pegasus raised a shrill cry, but, was made silent by the tentacles even entering from the mouth.

The tentacles, after entering somewhat into the body, released the seed they had been holding.

The children of Morjura use the body of other living being as nourishment for growth; hence by laying the seeds inside the body, they nurse it.

Like that the being having the seed planted inside, has the nourishment absorbed from the interior of body, and soon after dies from weakness.

Around this time, the grown-up Morjura bites and tears apart the stomach to get out, so even if they don't die from weakness, their death is inevitable.

And this continues for until one side dies, in other words, just like now the being would have tentacles stuffed inside forever, and seed would be planting inside it forever.

Getting captured by Morjura means, the body is raped just like now for several days.

That's why Morjura, while being a rank 2 monster, is a monster which adventurers would never want to lose to, it easily enters the top 5 category of most unpopular monsters.

If one is completely captured by Morjura then they can't even suicide if they want to.

That is the same for this Pegasus too, till the time her life lasts the seeds of Morjura would keep on filling her womb that is her fate.

But, that fate is toppled over at an unexpected turn.

Having the Death Reaper come to her before she went, she was given the relief of death in this current moment.

「Shitty smell and what a cruel scene」

The one who appeared abruptly was a man clad in Apprentice Mage Robe, the guild card hanging from the neck was bronze representation Rank 2.

In his right hand was a machete with a hue of deep crimson as if it was burning.

With just one light of it, the raging flames surge out vigorously.

But, those weren't any normal flames, but black burning flames that don't exist in natural world, the Darkness Flames.

Those black flames reduced the lying down Pegasus, and the Morjura squirming around like hoodlums, into ashes.

Morjura having a body structure near vegetables, having this much of flames poured upon, would only die with no room for survival.

「You're right, most of the monsters with tentacles have a habit of doing this thing」

With a calm voice without any intonations, a witch in black clothes appeared from behind the man.

She waved the red wand in her hands, while looking at the man; several tens of fireballs are fired off rapidly, blasting away the remaining Morjura trying to extend their tentacles.

「Ugh, it smells funny here!」

The one who appeared this time was a small girl clad in a sphere-shaped light green barrier.

Seems like she didn't like the smell emitted by Morjura and was showing a sullen expression by knitting her thin brows on her lovely face.

And, that sullenness is not only represented by her expression but also by her behavior.

She flickers her two pairs of wing, which is the special characteristic of fairies, and several orbs and beams scatter all over the place.

「Ah, I finally thought of trying out the new blade made of 『Wrath-Pun's right arm』, but Morjura's count just seems to decrease by each second.....」

The man says that with disappointment while shifting his vision to the young girl and the small girl, who are scattering the fire and light here and there respectively.

The moment he turns back, the Morjura attacking him from behind, didn't even enter the man's vision, but end up getting burned and bisected from the machete, which he called 『Wrath-Pun's right arm』 .

「Sorry Kurono-san, it was just too gross and disgusting」

「Uh, the smell, I hate it!」

To the non-timid witch, and angry fairy, the man nodded while smiling wrly.

「Well, certainly it was gross and stinking, not someone I would fight for a long period」

The man once again revert his vision to the front, only to see several corpses of Mojura burnt black, or in pieces.

In this place, even with a glance, it was clear the Morjura neared hundred, but after seeing such a one-sided attack, more than half ran towards the center of forest.

「Anyhow we were able to defeat the prescribed number, with this the quest is accomplished」

Furthermore, this Morjura Subjugation just happened to be the last quest needed for 『Element Master』 to reach Rank 3.

CHAPTER 232

THE MAN WITH 100 POINTS

The moment a man wearing Apprentice Magician Robe appeared, the heartbeat of the receptionist Erina, who was working in the Adventurer Guild Academy District branch, rose up a notch.

「Welcome Back Kurono-sama, congratulations on completing the quests! With this you are now Rank 3!!」

Erina's smile this time was, for the first time since she started working in guild, from her heart.

「Ah, Yes, thank you very much」

Kurono was taken aback seeing the cute smile and taking unexpected words of compliment, but somehow managed to safely respond.

「Err, so please have your way with it」

Erina took the three Guild Cards forwarded by Kurono with a smile, and started to operate the magic item for updating the Guild Card.

「You're increasing rank at an unbelievable pace, it completely surprised me」

「You are right, me and the party members have somewhat ability」

Without any difficulties, easily reaching Rank 3 doesn't mean their ability is 'somewhat' level.

For instance, if a skilled Rank 3 adventurer starts from Rank 1 again, and can reach to Rank 3 within a month, well pipe dreams.

Though it might Rank 2 monsters subjugation quests, with their ability of a Rank 3, they would need to make elaborate preliminary arrangements and need to be careful while moving around at the actual place.

At times, leaving the target even after discovering it because of their large crowd or the movements of nearby monsters is also common.

In that case, it would take quite lot of time to complete the quests.

In spite of that, the fact that they reached Rank 3 with just a little over 1 month while accepting all the quests means, that they swiftly ended the quests, there's no other proof.

As a bonus, this party called as Element Master brings the monsters counting more than requested in the quest.

This truly is the truth and evidence that their ability is enough to squash monsters even if they form crowds.

Erina is already convinced that Element Master has ability of Rank 4 or above.

「Ufufu, What were you doing before becoming an adventurer?」

「Sorry, that is a secret」

「No, it's my fault for trying to pry unneeded」

Even with this casual conversation, Erina deepens her conviction that Kurono isn't a country bumpkin from Irz Village, but just as he said someone great with a secret.

Thinking further, the party members, Lily the fairy and Fiona the witch, these two from the same village cannot be childhood friends.

(Perhaps, he was an Elite Knight of Daedalus?)

Thinking back, the history of participation in the emergency quest for escaping from Daedalus to Spada also seems fishy.

Thinking of them not as just adventurers, but the survivors of the defeated Daedalus army who, for protecting the civilians, took on the rear guard, thinking like that is more coherent.

After running to Spada, the knight having his motherland destroyed tried to live his life as an adventurer, this choice seems plausible.

(Hmm, a Knight of a ruined country, isn't this situation quite stimulating)

She was about to get drowned in her own delusions, but Erina, being an Elite receptionist, completed her work, in other words the updating of Guild Card was finished.

「Yes, the updation is now over」

Like that, the bronze started shining like Silver, handing the now silvery-shining Guild Card to Kurono, Erina said words of congratulations and encouragement.

Being praised from words and smile from her heart, Kurono showed his bashfulness as if to say he was embarrassed.

Depending on person that scene could be called dreadful, but seeing his cold sharp face smiling broadly, Erina's heart was tormented by the so-called 'Gap-moe'.

(Shit, he's just too good.....)

Erina was about to drool and have a nosebleed, but thanks to the steeled reasoning power, which every Elf has, she was able to feign composure.

「By the way, what would you do about quests, Kurono-sama?」

Judging from past experiences, the next lines would be to see all the Rank 3 quests needed for reaching up to Rank 4.

「No, Quests are postponed for sometime」

「Oh, is that so?」

Hearing the unexpected answer, Erina felt disappointment and stopped the listing of Rank 3 quests within her mind.

「Yes, I've been thinking of taking Adventurer Course of the Academy」

「I see, so that's the reason」

Though Erina said that, lots of doubts rose in her head.

(Why as of this time? His ability is more than enough, he's even reached Rank 3 means that he knows the ABC's of adventurers, moreover, if he was truly a Knight then he would also be fairly educated)

Adventurers' Course has reading and writing, elementary math, brief history, theology etc, the subjects that could be learned for education are all basic ones.

Even if Daedalus happened to be a developing country, there's no way that the Knight, who would carry the country, didn't learn all that.

(Just what does he intends to learn in the Adventurers' Course?)

Erina, who couldn't get an answer out, even thought that Kurono wasn't a Knight of Daedalus, in the end, she returned to the starting point about Kurono's identity, absolutely nothing.

「Um, can I ask one thing?」

When her head was about to be filled with question marks, this time, Kurono called out to her.

「Yes, what it might be?」

In a flash Erina replied with a perfect smile, though the inside of her head is like that, she doesn't disturb her outward appearance, she's only been working for 2 continuous years, but ability wise she was already in the realm of professionals.

「I had heard that upon reaching Rank 3, various information on monsters is unbanned, can I inspect that」

「Yes, you have heard right, upon reaching Rank 3, most of information can be inspected, The information's are on the second floor——」

Rank 3 is a rank when one can be considered a skilled adventurer.

Hence, from now onwards fighting monsters above their rank is their own freedom, or so the Guild thinks.

Fighting recklessly would only end up as dying, but fighting with power, for aiming more higher, and then it's needed to take some risks.

In that judgment, Guild has authorized all the information, except classified information, to be displayed to adventurers' of Rank 3 or above.

「I see, thank you」

Seeing Kurono giving thanks to her kind, careful and thorough explanation, her heartbeats rises up a notch again.

「Well then, in near future I will be back for quests」

Kurono who was leaving that place by saying his thanks,

「Please wait, Kurono-sama」

Was stopped by Erina.

「Huh?」

Maybe he didn't thought to be stopped, Kurono showed a little perplexed expression.

「I'm sorry, but this is a little personal, I just wanted to give my thanks to you」

「.....Thanks?」

‘Of What?’ Before Kurono asked, Erina bowed deeply and spoke.

「I'm really grateful for saving me in my peril. If Kurono-sama didn't enter at the right time, I would have lost my life to that murderer」

「Huh, Huuuh, Murderer, you mean——eh, uh, don't tell me, you're the victim from that time?」

To Kurono, who showed a truly surprised expression, Erina continued her words in a sarcastic manner.

「Did you by chance, not recognize who I was at that time?」

「Ah, no.....I'm sorry, at that time I was quite desperate myself, so I didn't had composure to confirm the face」

「No, it's alright, that situation just popped out of blue after all, and I even had a different hairstyle at that time. But, I immediately understood, that you were Kurono-sama at that time」

That's right that was the reason why Erina, like a young pubescent girl, was making her heartbeat increase when she talked with Kurono.

Kurono is the knight for her, who saved her in her peril from Joto the serial killer.

「I'm sorry, but, it's good that you're fine」

「That should be my line, I called the Law Guardians immediately, but I didn't knew if they made it in time or not.....At the time of interrogation I finally heard all the details and was relieved」

Erina knew later about the situation currently, that Kurono was approved of appearing a day later because he was tired.

Erina knew that Kurono saved her, but she didn't know where he lived.

Then she finally thought that they would only be able to meet in Guild, and right now that is exactly happening.

「It was helpful that you called the Law Guardians, thank you very much」

After exchanging some words confirming the health of each other, this time, Kurono truly left the Guild.

While gazing at the masculine back wrapped in the black robe, Erina muttered.

「Ufufu, Kurono-san, I'm giving you 100 points」

The marks for Kurono she had held back for sometime were now recorded as 100 points, a perfect score, and the highest marks for Erina.

CHAPTER 233

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Never had I thought that the female who was attacked was Erina-san.....is this what they mean that world is small.

It was unexpected truth, but I was able to save a person I know of, as the results I've got no intention to complain.

However, considering all that, for some reason, Fiona's reaction was unfavorable, to me, who was talking happily, she was sending me a cold glare.

Is this the, 'I defeated the murderer, don't show haughtiness yourself' type of nuance embedded glare.

Hmm, but even Lily, who was hearing besides me had a cold reaction, just what the hell is with them.....no, well it must only me over-thinking about their cold reactions.

It must me getting excited on my own, whereas for them both, saving people in this world lodged with monsters might be daily occurrences.

Setting this matter aside, just like I heard from Miss Erina before, to obtain the newly unbanned information, I may my way to the Reference room which is exclusive for Rank 3 and above.

Though I say that, this reference room entirely covers a single floor out of these four floors, it would be more precise to call it library judging from the amounts of books and documents it stores.

These all are not only based on monsters, but also weapon, magic, stuff related to adventurers etc, in fact the floor is divided into parts based on the classification of books.

So, I took charge of getting info about monsters, and left other information gathering to Lily and Fiona.

The still-estranged-from-common sense me, suffers a lot to understand the contents of books due to unknown nouns and peculiar expressions.

It would be great if I comprehend the ecology and habitat area of monsters, but in most cases, I give up on the documents which simply need lot of comprehension power, especially the books related to magic.

That's why, did I do role-sharing.

Well, to Fiona, who went to a vocational school like Elysion Magic Academy, finding new books of magic is a low probability.

「Well then, will Mia tell me the important stuff」

When I step into the reference room with monsters' information stuffed inside bookshelves, I closed my right eye and surveyed the surroundings.

「.....Gotcha」

Several books of the monster list, which always get's updated by Guild because of its high frequency of use, started glowing in red, emphasizing their existence.

Closing the left eye, I looked from the right eye, and as expected, the red luminescence disappeared, it returned back to a normal book.

Even if it's magic the structure of this eyeball is still unknown, well because it's convenient, let's ignore.

I took the books which radiated red color, pile them on the table, and while opening the first book, sat down on a chair.

This reference room is only being used by me currently, so it's truly quiet.

Hearing the sound of me turning over pages resounding in the room, made me recall of the Literature Club of my high school.

While indulging in the emotions, I move the pen over a white paper and note down the info in the books.

This information is about the new trials which would come in future.

After spending quite a lot of time, I listed the monsters which were in red color upon seeing from the left eye.

「Six left, huh」

On the paper, six names were written.

Greed Gore.

Sloth Sgil.

Pride Gem.

Gluttony Oct.

Lust Rose.

Envy Ray

「Almost like the seven deadly sins」

「Indeed, the demons which are crowned with the names of sins, are the only worthy offerings for getting the Divine Protection of Demon King」

To words I muttered for some reason, unexpectedly a reply came back.

I turn back to look, there stood Mia in the same uniform of Academy as I saw before in the plaza.

「Just kidding, did it sound too cool」

“Ahaha”, saying that Mia seemed bashful, hey, if you’re that embarrassed then don’t say it in the first place.

But, it would be pathetic to point that out.

「You appear unexpectedly, as always」

「Ehehe, isn’t that more Godly?」

“Is that so?” I think that, but looking at the prideful Mia, it makes me want to compromise to her words.

Of course, at this stage, I’m taking her more of a the-child Mia-chan, rather than a god.

「So the rest of trials will be over after subjugating all these six monsters?」

「Yeah, but even if I don’t tell you reason, you know it, right」

After defeating Wrath-Pun, which had the power of flames, I obtained the ability to change my black magical energy into flames.

And, from the six monsters I just investigated upon, it’s written that they all are specialized in attribute power.

Fire, Water, Ice, Earth, Lightning, Wind, Light, Darkness, these eight are the attributes of magic, if I can use all eight of them, without them, I can name myself as a true Element Master.

The monsters left to complete the trials, have all the attributes except the fire and darkness.

「Changing the black magical energy into the form and nature of some attribute, that is the power of Divine Protection, right?」

「You’re right, at the lowest you will get that sort of power」

Mia sat in the seat in front of me, and put a big lunch box, which god knows where he/she took out from, on top of the table.

She’s gonna have lunch, leaving Mia personal work, I pursued behind those meaningful words.

「At the lowest means, there is more to come?」

「How you use the power is up to you, it’s about how proficiently you can use it. Ah, but upon clearing all the trails, there lot to come!」

“That’s why, work hard”, saying those encouraging words, Mia took out an unusually big sandwich from the already-opened box and started gulping it down heartily.

The smell of bacon stuffed between two white soft breads along with meat, stimulates my appetite, it’s so troubling.

Aside from that, use the power as I wish means not the aim, but how I practically use the ability to show effect, right.

In the Morjura Subjugation Quest, I used the black flames via the enhanced 『Ifrit’s Thumb』, the machete 『Wrath-Pun’s Right arm』, and it proved that even using a normally would release lot of firepower.

No, it only means that the 『Wrath-Pun’s Right arm』 was more high-speeded than I thought for, Stratos Smithing Workshop really did a great job, I will go there more in future.

Setting it aside, I need to get more familiar at using this power, and then I would be able to turn only the blade super hot always, like that the things I could do would only increase, ah, after obtaining different nature transformations, it would be interesting to combine them all together.

Of course, at the current stage it’s like counting raccoon dog skins before even capturing them.

Moreover, aside from that, the ‘lot to come’ after completing the trials is, probably,

「The Divine Protection activated upon reciting the name of god, right?」

Shock, His/Her small mouth and hands stopped.

「Why do you know that already?」

「Why? Well everyone has been using Divine Protection by reciting the name of their god, that’s why」

For Lily it is 『Fairy Queen Iris』, For Vulcan 『Orphan Wolf Volfgand』, for Susu-san 『Shadow Ferry Hanzomer』, I have seen the scene where they recite the name of the god when activating the effect of Divine Protection.

There's no way I wouldn't understand after seeing that.

「Eh~, so you knew it all~~」

Mia resumed eating her food, but with a displeased expression.

What the fuck, did he/she wanted to keep it as a secret.....No, it's too strange to not notice it.

「Ah, But, I'm getting excited on thinking what spell would I recite~」

“Why the hell am I trying to please this god?” Thinking that, I spoke this remark, as I was unable to endure the figure of Mia eating sandwich with a depressed expression.

「Eh, really? Mufufu, but I won't tell you, it's a secret yet!」

Looks like my remark did a great job, Mia's mood swings in a second and now she is smiling.

For some reason, I can't help but think of her as a child just like his/her appearance.

Well, it's all fine as long it's cute!

「By the way, Mia」

However, just like there are rule for Gods, there are rules even in the world of people, which I have to teach this child right now.

「Eh, What?」

Before I noticed it, Mia, who had already finished the bacon sandwich, was now heading towards the next egg sandwich, I carefully paid attention to it as if I had become the Librarian.

「Eating and Drinking is banned in the Reference Room」

CHAPTER 234

ENROLMENT CELEBRATION

20th of Red Flame Month, time is of before the bell of noon rings, at this time we, the Element Master walked within the magnificent main building of Royal Spada Academy.

「Though it's enrolment, we easily entered the Adventurer Course, right」

「I second that」

「Indeed~」

The other day, after reaching Adventurer Rank 3, we finally enrolled in the Academy as we had thought from before.

Although I say that, this is the Adventurer Course which would welcome anyone if one pays enough money, there would be no exams imposed, so it is less worthy than passing the High School.

Therefore, today is our first day of attendance as students, the only thing we need to do are fundamental enrollment procedures, and briefing about the school.

After that it's up to you whether you want to take classes or not, if you like then you can stop that instantly.

There is neither a homeroom teacher nor a need to self-introduce in the new class, just, the class one thinks are needed needs to be attended, that sort of system.

Judging from traits of Adventurers' Course, this degree of freedom seems natural, though knowing all that, I held anticipation for the new school I would commute to, so this came as a disappointment.

I even recall the useless action of buying the uniform, the black blazer.

It's a little bit late, but not all people in the Adventurers' Course wear the uniform, the ones wearing it for integrity are even not even half of them.

「It's kind of disappointing judging from the looks」

「Isn't it good, the uniform, I am liking it, and it's looking good at Kurono-san too」

「Kurono, so cool!」

No, you're levels at wearing the uniform stylishly is completely unsurpassable by me.

It is fitting perfectly on Fiona because of her age, and Lily is completely looking like a glittering first-year student.

Compared to them, I, who wore the school uniform of school I went to before had been changed with the blazer, so it feels fresh as if I have become a new transfer student, but based on outward appearance I'm looking like a normal highschool student.....or not, not anymore.

Compared to that time my height had increased, and more than anything my physique increased by a leap with all that toned muscles, I'm now more fitting as a Adventurer rather than a highschool student.

Well, even like that, upon getting praised by Lily an Fiona that I look good, albeit on any standard, it makes me happy secretly.

「By the way, what are you two going to do? I will go meet Wil and Simon, seems like they are going to do a celebration party on my enrolment, wanna come together?」

「I'm thinking of first seeing the library, there is something I want to search for, later on I will step in there」

She's so diligent for checking the library, as expected of Witch.

「What will you do, Lily?」

「You see, Lily too has work to do!」

What!? Lily got work to do? Just what work does she has to do, in her child form.

「Ufufu, still a secret!」

「I-I see」

Now that she told it's a secret, I can't pursue further.

So for the time being, later on Lily and Fiona will come together, so I will go first to the storage—I mean laboratory where Simon and Wil might be waiting.

Ah, now that I think about it, Wil is the Spada's Second Prince Wilhart, though I have told these two about meeting him, but today will be their first time meeting him.

It would be great if Lily doesn't put her guard up seeing his vigor.....why the hell am I getting overprotective.

「Well then, see you later」

Like that, we are, wanting to head for our destinations, temporarily separated near the front entrance of the main building.

.

.

.

「T-This is——」

Right now I visited the run-down lab of Simon, and within, as promised, got a warm welcome for enrolment.

I am truly happy that they are celebrating my entrance, in truth a shock which I had never expected was waiting for me.

After all, the ones standing in front of me are,

「——Aren't these rice balls!？」

The soft plump white rice with black nori on the top, this though simple yet refined dish, no matter from where you look at it, seems like a rice ball.

Maybe because I just took hold of a freshly cooked one, from the triangle of white black color, little bit of steam rises.

The faint smell of nori, just greatly stimulates my stomach and appetite.

「Whoa, Onii-chan is truly surprised」

「Fahahahaha, it's just as we had told you!」

Seeing my reaction, Wil seemed satisfied.

「What is this, did Wil prepare it?」

I had heard before that they would wait with lunch prepared, but never had I thought that an rice ball would appear.

Just why, is rice ball the comfort food of Japanese, present in this another world as if natural, I ask whilst my arousal is still continuing.

「Fumu, let me confirm it first Kurono, you are a foreigner, in other words, an existence that came from a world different from this one, right?」

「Yeah.....no wait, did I ever tell you that I'm a person of another world?」

To Wil's manner of speaking full of confidence, I ended up giving my affirmation, but I hadn't told him about another world fact at the time I told about the fight in Alsace Village.

Currently the people who know that I'm another worlder, here called as 'foreigner', are just Lily, Fiona and Simon.

I sent a fleeting glance of suspicion to Simon, maybe he understood my intention, and rejected it by shaking his head and hands.

「Don't get your guard up, just because you're a foreigner, I won't do a thing to you. The black hair and eyes, in the first place, is the trait of foreigners mostly, so I could guess it just by looking at you once」

Now that he said that, I haven't met people with black hair and eyes.

I had seen people with one of them, but people with both of them would be only the experiment subjects.

I see, thinking probabilistically, the Japanese traits of black hair and eyes equates to trait of foreigners, just with that one can guess easily.

Well, I have one red eye now though.

「Now, seeing you react that way to this dish Rice Ball, which a foreigner had told, I was completely confirmed of that fact」

Looks like I was entrapped, but if a Japanese person sees rice balls in an strange another world, there is no way the person won't get happy.

No, the fact that concerns me is,

「An foreigner told means, there are others like me in Spada!？」

Though I said others like me, strictly speaking I don't mean those who were summoned here as experimental subjects.

Other than that, Japanese summoned here for some other main cause, is a surprising point for me.

「No, they aren't in Spada」

「Then, where？」

「Well calm down, let's talk while eating, Rice Balls are tasty though cold, but still eating them hot is best」

“Hahaha”, Wil sat down elegantly while laughing as usual, continuing me and Simon also sat.

No, well, rice balls are truly tasty.....Crap, I'm about to tear up from the happiness and homesickness.....

「——Well then, has Kurono heard about Count Red Wing？」

While eating the another world version of rice balls, which has fish like salmon garnished, Wil started talking.

While taking the tea from the Wil's maid who named herself as Seria, I—Oh, this tea tastes like green tea, that means tea leaves also exist here.

Turning aside that sort of thoughts,

「Nope, never heard of it」

I replied.

「Fumu, you had been living in the countryside of Daedalus, no wonder you didn't know about a noble of city-state, so let the me, who brain is filled with grey matter—」

「Count Red Wing was from a country called Rune, he was also the a person who came from 'JAPAN' country, he was the one who made it」

「Nooooooooooooaa! Simon, how dare you reveal the important stuff so easily, that was the most foolish act, how can you not understand the inner workings of a conversation!」

「After all, Wil's self-advertisement is always long, the talk won't continue」

The alchemist looks at the complaining Prince with scornful eyes, looks like they got friendlier when I wasn't around.

No, more than their progress, the fact Count Red Wing was a Japanese is more shocking.

Most probably Red Wing is an alias, the name he got here, if it's truly an alias, then his name would be, hmmm, Akaba-san? No, that just too simple to be true. [1]

Anyway, Even a Japanese me can say this rice ball is perfect, it only means that the Count isn't spouting any lie.

However, if he was a Japanese like me means, he would have had a rough start without any means, still he became someone that great, completely different from the adventurer me, who doesn't even has a permanent residence address.

「Hey, how do I meet that Count?」

「Well meeting him is impossible」

Why? Does the Count don't want to meet anyone like adventurers'? Quite arrogant.....

「Count Red Wing died 50 years ago」

「Come again?」

To Wil's words, I let out a foolish sound.

Died? Moreover 50 years ago? That's just shit——No wait, come to think of it,

「People like you have lived in the era I was alive, rather there were many more compared to now」

When I first met Mia, he/she said that thing.

That's right, the phenomenon of summoning people from Earth is not something that didn't happen before.

「Is that so, truly unfortunate.....」

I thought that I would finally meet someone 'decent and normal' from Japan, but it doesn't seem like I would get the chance.

「D-Don't get that depressed Kurono, The Count of Rune had left various things of another world origin」

「That's right, there are also SUSHI and TEMPURA, and other things for eating!」

I got happy at the unexpected follow up by these two, and,

「SUSHI and TEMPURA, Pfft, hahahahaha!」

I laugh out loud because the way Simon said the names sounded like the dialect of a stereotype foreigner tourist.

「Eh, What, did I say something strange?」

「Well, even SUSHI and TEMPURA are the dishes Rune boasts of」

「Kuku, no, the pronunciation was different, it's said sushi and tempura」

“Whoa- as expected of a real foreigner” The reaction of Simon and Wil seemed strange and made me laugh more,

I can't meet Red Wing person, who is without a doubt Japanese, but still I got some interesting information.

Rune, eh, let's go there in future sometime.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Kurono: 「I need to keep the talk about Sushi and Tempura a secret from Fiona」

CHAPTER 235

LILY AND CHAIRWOMAN

「You see, Lily too has work to do!」

Lily said that truly cutely, but,

「Excuse me, can I ask you to convey a message to Chairwoman Pacifal? That if she remembers the name Lily of Fairy Garden, I would like to meet her」

On the counter on the second floor of main building, Lily said those words in her child form, but her way of speaking was completely that of an adult.

In her round and cute emerald eyes, intelligence, no, cleverness seems to reside.

「Please wait a moment」

One minute after getting that answer,

「The Chairwoman wants to meet you, let me guide you to the Chairperson room on the top floor」

The clerk female, who had been seeing Lily as a child, was now guiding her with a nervous expression on face.

(As expected of long living Dark Elves, it's going to be 30 years now and she still remembers that)

Lily slightly recalled her meeting with the Chairwoman of Royal Spada Academy, Sofia Sirius Pacifal.

.

.

.

28 years ago.

In the dead of night, within Fairy garden, a dark elf covered in blood was crouching near the root of a tree.

From her neck, a silver plate Guild Card was hanging, implying she was a Rank 3 Adventurer.

On it the name without the family name Sofia, Mage class, and other information was written.

「Ku.....This is somewhat bad.....」

Sofia's figure in desperation while muttering that seemed weak and frail.

Her delicate hair just like a silver thread were disordered, the glossy dark brown skin was dirtied by blood and dark soil, the white robe she wore was torn, burned, frayed, and didn't seem like an armor anymore.

The girl with vacant atmosphere drifting around, with blood and dirt stuck on her, lost her shining beautifulness.

Seeing her dirty figure, one would think she was a weak and frail girl who was attacked by monster or bandits within the forest.

But, Sofia was anything but weak and frail, that is something one would know even if they don't see her Guild Card, but look at the surroundings.

Surrounding Sofia were several tens of ice sculptures.

Those were of humans, beast people, and many other races, they were all armed with weapons, looking just like a group of adventurers, in fact, they were adventurers.

(I shouldn't have fought alone)

While looking the ice sculptures with a faint breath, she regretted.

But often by the time one repents, the irreversible work had been done.

Sofia, just a moment ago, killed all the adventurers that joined hands to steal the Artifact that resides within the holy land of fairies, the Light Fountain.

Entering the Light Fountain area is forbidden, this is an official rule in the Western Daeadalus, and every village's Adventurers' Guild calls it like that.

But, she would never move to stop the adventurers doing bandit-like work because of something like sense of justice.

(I don't like it, for that reason, the opponents were the just too bad)

Sofia and frozen dead adventurers met last night in the dining hall of Adventurers' Guild of the nearest village, Irz.

And, just that single contact made this group spout shit about Sofia in addition to her Dark Elves race.

It was inside the Adventurers' Guild, so Sofia feigned calmness and drew back at that place, but,

(But it's the truth that I wouldn't feel better until I get them good)

And the result was massacre of all members.

This was quite common way to end the quarrel among hot-blooded adventurers.

(hmpf, you're so unsightly, lady-killer)

Seeing the only Rank 4 Elf man, who spouted the most shit, from her blurred vision, Sofia let out a bitter laugh.

While alive his elf face was quite good, but after being frozen it was pulverized and would never be seen again.

(Ah, crap, I'm getting really sleepy, if I lost my consciousness then it will remain like that forever)

The falling eyelids were stupidly heavy.

In accordance to survival instincts, she tried to hold onto her consciousness, but considering her current state it was nothing more than short-lived resistance.

(After all, I was cut out for just this much.....it's a worthless manner of dying, but is more adventurer-ish)

The time she started thinking negative thoughts proactively, and was waiting to accept her death,

「Are you fine?」

She sensed a child-like small human-shape person, while shining, stood in front of her.

(What, is it the divine messenger that picks the dead up? For them to exist in and not be a lie.....)

For looking at the face of the divine messenger, even for just a glance, she mustered her left strength and somehow opened her eyes.

There was a small girl's face, with long platinum-blond hair and emerald green eyes, while her body was literally shining, she was truly lovely and beautiful.

.

.

.

And, 28 years later, in current they both were having a reunion in the Chairperson room of Royal Spada Academy.

In the documents distributed during the briefing about school before, if Lily hadn't noticed the name of Chairperson on one of its page, this reunion wouldn't have occurred.

「After that time, I started taking care of myself, and am now able to live like this」

「Taking care? The heroic saga about the adventurer called as 『Valkyrie Blizzard』 is something I had heard even while living in a rural place within Daedalus」

「Stop it, it was when I was in active duty, but after retiring hearing that second name is embarrassing to an unbearable extent」

Saying that the beautiful dark elf woman smiled, the face of the about-to-die girl isn't left, but still Lily knew just by a glance that she was the adventurer who was saved all that time before.

「Still, you haven't changed at all, as expected of fairy, eh」

Lily compared her small body, which was sitting on a black leather sofa, and the body of Sofia, which couldn't be any riper for any female, which caused her be conscious of the flow of time and difference of races.

Even elves can't be compared to preserving youth to the magical existences, fairies, who don't have the very concept of getting old, even if it's Lily, who was half-human half-demon, the difference could not be covered.

But it is a different story if that difference is for good-or-worse, looking at their chests, Lily is like the Great Plains stretching till horizon, conversely Sofia is like Great Mountain Range which reaches up to heavens.

If Lily had heard the information about Kurono being a big-breast lover, she would have glared the profound ravine made by glossy dark brown skin, without caring about the authenticity of the information.

「Oh, I thought you would have only known my child form, but you seem unperturbed by the current me too」

It's only recently that Lily is now at least able to restore her consciousness to the adult form.

It is someone who knows Lily till now, they would know that she neither spoke like a child nor did she wear the clothes that fairies wear.

Her speaking words fluently and wearing the uniform of Academy can already be called quite a great change.

「That red jewel in your bosom is really beautiful」

Lily carries the 『Queen Beryl』 under cover to hide it, even now.

But, looks like in the long-slitted blue eyes of Sofia, this artifact which contains enormous magical energy, was clearly reflected.

「As expected of a Rank 5 adventurer, I'm no match for it」

Most probably, she already knows from where this artifact came from.

「Ex-adventurer, well, currently I'm working as the Chairwoman of this Academy, not like I'm seriously working. However, to you, my life savior, I can help in many things that occur within the school」

But, she didn't seem to have any intention of pursuing that matter.

Lily had thought that even a fight would occur, but seeing the person she saved was with wisdom, she felt relieved.

「Well then, what is your wish」

「I've received the gratitude at that time, fufu, so this is strong sense of duty particular to dark elves, thank you」

Lily felt she might be able to build a good relationship with her.

After all, while knowing Lily from before, she didn't despise her as a child, this attitude is full of wariness and intelligence.

「Fumu, I see, if there some problem in the School life just tell me. If you want I can arrange a room in dorm or a laboratory for you, ah, there is also an all-year-long Free Pass for the School Cafeteria」

To those words, which seemed half joke,

「It would be great to stop that Free Pass, your school side is too big」

Lily replied seriously.

「Can you eat that much?」

「There is a glutton as my party member, if you take charge a fee, she would keep on eating for who knows how many hours」

Taking Lily's serious answer Sofia let out a stifled laughter, looks like she took it as a joke.

Even if the School Cafeteria falls into a deficit, Lily would act ignorant.

「Ah, but, I'm thankful for lending a dorm, I had been thinking it's about time to leave the inn and buy a room somewhere」

It was the truth.

Adventurers are mostly out for quests, rather than staying at inn, and if it's wandering adventurers, then they use inn rather than getting a room for a long-term contract.

But, after commuting to Academy, their time for quests would relatively decline, and they would remain in Spada until graduation or dropping out of school.

In that case, buying a room is more economical than inn, for a long-term.

「I see, if you want it then just tell me at that time, and, do you not want the laboratory?」

「I know the meaning of a student having their personal laboratory, but I don't want to be indebted that much」

It was more of not wanting to create needless debts rather taking advantage of favor.

「Admirable attitude, eh, I want to let the sons of incompetent nobles hear that line」

「It's not that great of a thing, if I present the recipe of Fairies' miracle drug, I would get one or two laboratories easily」

「Can you not present it right now? I won't say stingy thing like, just a laboratory, I would compensate for your wish」

「Ufufu, I have no intention right now」

Lily already, no from the start knew about the true worth of fairies' miracle drug that she could create.

And, Sofia had learned about its high effect, 28 years ago.

「I see, it's unfortunate. If you change your mind, tell me anytime. And, yeah we were talking about dorm, right」

Rather than pursuing further, Sofia chose to change the topic quickly.

「Yeah, I need it, is it alright?」

「Other than Elite candidates personal dorms, it's no problem」

「I want it near the shabby place where Simon Friedrich Bardiel is living」

Of course, it's not Lily's wish, but rather Kurono would be happy like that.

Before, Lily had known about Bardiel family and Simon, in the shop called Fairytail.

Though Simon is an adopted and youngest child, there's no change in the fact that his name contains the name of one of the Four Great Nobles of Spada.

In short, being familiar with him would get them a powerful connection.

As a bonus reason, for Kurono, who possesses knowledge about the other world's tech, and Simon, who possesses the genius brains for implementing that knowledge, it's better for them to stay at one place, it would increase the progress of research and development.

「No it would be better to not be placed there, that place is——」

「Oh, so even a legendary adventurer like you also show discomposure, rare things sure occur in world」

The moment Lily interrupted the most plausible reason for rejection; a strained freezing atmosphere reigned in the room.

「I knew that fairies' have an Extra Magic like Telepathy, but for it to work to this extent」

「I'm a little bit special, but, if I didn't had somewhat information beforehand, I wouldn't have been this confident」

The freezing Crystal blue eyes and shining Emerald green eyes intersect.

Even a powerless normal person saw this glaring match, he would bend on his knees easily, or, if a Knight sensed this atmosphere, he would've put hands on the hilt of sword quickly.

It's completely Lily's fault for creating this turbulent critical situation.

In the information she learned from Fairytail, there was info about Sofia's and Simon's relation, for instance, about her recommending him to leave the school temporarily to create money, etc etc.

The info was not decisive but with that as the trigger, Lily reached upon a guess with her intuition.

And, that guess was proved this moment.

Sofia, who had casted Mind Protect on herself which is equal to a soil frozen for eternity, but the turbulence of emotions did occur to observe it easily even with Mind Protect.

The emotion Lily captured was just like a flower sprouted in snow, the so-called 『Jealousy』 .

「Though you're my life savior, I won't hand him, Simon, over to anyone」

Hence, Sofia spoke her true feelings to Lily, who could read her mind.

Most probably she knows, that Lily, just like Simon, is a survivor from Daedalus, and she was saved miraculously.

And, maybe she deluded herself in thinking about the stuff between a man and woman who have survived the cruel emergency quest.

「I won't hand him over, it's absolute」

Till now, Sofia's heart didn't waver at all like an iceberg, but right now her heart was filled passion like blazing purgatory.

While sensing that passion which could burn the one intervened in her heart, Lily smiled with elegance.

「Ufufu, Relax, the person I love is someone else, Fairy's love is only one, we don't do treachery」

「.....Is that true?」

「Fairies' never lie」

Sofia probably knows that those words in itself were a lie, but she believed Lily's words about not having romantic emotions for Simon.

「I made an embarrassing mistake, sorry」

「It's fine, love-struck maidens need to be like that」

It's a problem to call Lily, who was of 32 years, and Sofia who was surely about double Lily, as maidens.

But, there is no one to point that out here, nor would anyone point that out if they didn't had the resolution to fight against two armies.

「But, frankly speaking, I was surely surprised to see you serious to that extent」

「Is it truly strange.....our age differences is more than 20 years, even our races are different」

Though they might not compete publicly, but some specific races have feelings of disgust for other races.

Elves and Dark Elves are classic examples for that, in public view, they aren't a couple which would be welcomed.

The age goes without saying, although the standard is different, it is a problem in all races.

「Noo, it's nothing strange! Age? Race? Those shitty things have no power in stopping the power of love」

But, Lily asserted, there was no hesitation in her words.

There was no lie or deceit in Lily's words, on the other hand,

(It's truly a surprise, for her to be this innocent.....)

Lily had thought she would have lots of experience with men based on her appearance, career history and age, but sensing a clumsy color of first love in the outer surface of Sofia's consciousness, she was indeed, surprised.

「I-I see, Fufufu, there's nothing wrong, me and Simon are the best couple」

“No, I never said that much”, Lily gulped down the line which came to her throat.

A scarlet hue spreads over her cool beautiful face, and her bewitchingly alluring lips curl in a sluttish way.

“Even if she doesn't need to hide her love anymore, but showing this sort of reaction is too much”, Lily thought that while feigning innocence.

But because it was a pure and beautiful love, the instinct of fairies' is stimulated.

It was truly something of concern of how did that weak and seedy-looking Simon captured the heart of this girl who was called as 『Valkyrie Blizzard』 .

「Judging from your reaction, there was no one else to talk this about, right. If you're fine with me, I can help you with love consultations?」

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

28 years ago means, Lily was just 4 years old. Truly a small child.

CHAPTER 236

GUIDING THROUGH THE GREAT LIBRARY

「Argh, pain in the ass」

While saying lazy words like that, the first prince of Avalon and the leader of Rank 5 party 『Wing Road』, Nero Julius Elrod was walking within the school premises.

The place he was heading was to the library which not only Royal Spada Academy, but also the country Spada itself boasts about. The library, not only had books since long ago, but also the biggest book collection among other countries.

Though it is located as a library of a single school, but everyone calls it Great Library as a part of paying respect.

「Damn that Safi, do your document search on your own.....」

The reason why Nero was heading to the Great Library was because he was asked help from one of his party member, Safiel Maya Hydra.

Plain jobs like this are suited more for his too-serious sister, but Nell is currently in classes along with Charlotte, and therefore cannot move freely.

Of course, the sword-wielding muscle-brained Kai is out of question.

So eventually, only Nero, who is good and also has brilliant mind, if only one ignores his attitude to find things bothersome, was the one left.

「What is ‘you are of wasting time, right’, my ass, I was actually fully enjoying my own free time in my own way」

That is what people call wasting time, but looks like Nero was still a child to understand that.

Anyhow, Nero headed to help Safi though while complaining, surely within the bottom of his heart, he might have been feeling tired with boredom.

He might be wanting for a peaceful daily life, but somewhere within his heart a self-contradicting feeling evading boredom, sometimes appears out to torment him as distress.

Oh well, it's nothing that sentimental right now.

「*Sigh*, so need to find a damn fucking book in this holy shitty big place, eh」

“Truly depressing”, while muttering that, Nero absentmindedly kept on staring the Great Library in front of him.

As the Great Library was made using the conventional architecture techniques, so its outer appearance is just like a temple.

He crossed the corridor with round pillars with white entasis standing on the sides, and arrived in front of a double door, at that time,

「Hm, that girl is.....」

Nero's red eyes caught sight of a person he has seen.

From the opposite side than himself, a girl was heading towards the front entrance.

The figure of girls wearing uniform was quite a common thing in this Academy, but her short light blue hair, and shining golden eyes, somehow had a divine charm hidden in them.

Nero did remember this girl with a white face and facial features just like a doll.

「Hey you, so you were a student of here」

Nero called out to the girl who passed by him and put her hands on the door.

「.....Who are you?」

The girl asked about his identity, but, seeing the face of the girl once again from up close, he was convinced that it wasn't a wrong person.

She was the girl whom he saved from a dangerous spot after getting called out by 2 skirt chasers in the plaza.

「Now that you say that, I didn't name myself at that time, though I thought you might have known me——」

It was already surprising for Nero to find someone in Spada who didn't know him, but what surprised him more was that she didn't remember him in spite of being saved from trouble at the right time.

Nero only remembers that though he had saved various other girls from stuff like that, but later they approached him passionately and he was fed up from it.

There were also times some girls determined his lineage, though he hadn't named himself, and even pushed into the Avalon Royal Castle.

「Do you seriously not remember me?」

「Yes」

Her eyes weren't of happiness upon being called by a charming man, but were filled vigilance towards a suspicious person trying to woo her.

“If I did something the wrong way, maybe I too would get beaten by the wand just like those two playboys”, thinking that Nero decided to choose his words carefully.

「1 week ago, weren't you being troubled by some playboys from our school?」

If this event in itself was on the verge of being forgotten, then even Nero cannot do anything about it.

But,

「Ah」

There was hope, looks like the Black Gods of Pandora were smiling at him.

「So you remember it?」

「You are the one who was trying to woo me at that time」

「No, not that one!」

Just when he thought they were smiling, it turned out to be a prank by god.

The girl's reply was truly above outside of his expectations, and it made him feel vexed upon being grouped with those playboys.

「Remember it correctly, when you were quarrelling with those two while hitting them with your wand, I saved you, right?」

「Yeah, that third playboy was——」

「No, I wasn't the playboy but saved you, didn't I just say, hey remember when I intervened the other two easily backed off, right? OK?」

「Huh」

The girl's face still showed no signs of being convinced, while Nero sighed within.

Though she remembered him, but he never had guessed that she would remember him this vaguely.

「But, you're quite interesting, what's your name?」

「I'm not someone whose name you should know」

She's getting more interesting, Nero, unexpectedly let out a smile to this girl who was feigning innocence.

Thinking back on it, it's the first time he had actually met someone who would take on such a cold attitude to him.

Nero had a high status, good appearance, and ability too, for better or for worse there was no one who would ignore him, at least until now.

That's why Nero had some interest sprouted towards this girl who was had an indifferent attitude.

「Sorry, it's manners to name oneself before asking, right. I'm Nero, Nero Julius Elrod」

「.....I'm Fiona Soleil」

The girl named herself as that.

Seems like, though she was indifferent she wasn't manner less, seeing her behavior Nero felt a good impression about her.

Incidentally, even after he named his family name, telling her about being a royalty of Avalon, the expressionless face of the girl didn't change even a bit, which Nero felt likeable.

「So Fiona, what is the work you have here, in this Great Library? If you want to search for something, I will help you」

Though both were helping, but he thought that it would be more worthwhile to help this Fiona who he met just now, rather than helping Safi who would always push him around.

Of course, judging this girl's cold attitude so she wouldn't ask anyone, hence he tried to ask her himself.

「There is something I would like to ask」

However, unexpectedly proactive words came from Fiona.

「What is it?」

Nero looked straight into the eyes of Fiona, with a spirit saying that he would answer anything other than the state secret of Avalon.

The golden eyes which looked back at him didn't had any emotions wavering, rather he even had a hunch that she could completely see through him.

「There must be a place where the prohibited books are place in this library, do you know where it is?」

“Holy! That's one damn question”, though Nero's facial expression remained the same, but inside he was shocked.

However, he had guessed from before that this to-the-end expressionless girl would ask something damned.

Originally the place where prohibited books are sealed is a place students have no work in, and also, it is publicly banned to go in there.

In the first place, the information related to the inner parts of Great Library's prohibited area is not something mere students would even know about.

Fiona appearance, the expressionless face, seems like it isn't expecting an answer to her question.

And yet, the details of question weren't something out of just curiosity.

The right answer here would be 「I don't know」, and even if he did knew about that place he shouldn't tell her.

However, while making his red mantle, the proof of being an elite cadet, flutter and putting the hand on the door, he boldly declared.

「'Kay, I will guide you, follow me」

.
. .
.

Around the time the bell of noon rang, Nero finished the guiding of Underworld Great Library in safe health, and they both returned to the entrance.

「——Well, it's something like this, are you satisfied now lady?」

「Yeah, it made a good reference, thank you very much」

Nero made use of his presence detector and evaded the eyes of people, and went around the prohibited Great Library's deepest parts.

Though he didn't enter the sealed area, but just guided her till the door, after all Fiona's request was to tell her about this place's position, so he did his job.

Of course, if she wanted to enter that place, then even Nero would have to prepare stuff in advance.

It ain't a prohibited sealed area for show, there are barriers for sensing intruders and stopping casted over in multitude.

Fortunately, the patrol of security guard isn't that much, so one can enter without being noticed by others.

But for that, quite a bit of magical ability is needed for both the person themselves and also the Magic Item for breaking through barriers.

The people who could do that would only be some people in the whole academy including Nero, at least it is impossible for Fiona, a person at the level who loves beginner's wand, to even try to intrude here.

「Just for your information, don't try to enter that place, it's still good if you get caught, but if you are caught by some nasty barrier then it won't end on the level of just being hurtful」

Still, he thought of hammering down the nail sticking out.

「Eh? Yes, you're right, and I wasn't thinking of entering that place」

Nero thought his warning would go useless, but there was nothing more he could say for now.

Well, if something occurred he would do something about it, or so he thought while being overly positive.

「By the way, it's already noon, wanna come to the School Cafeteria? I will treat you?」

「No, it's fine」

Fiona denied his invitation, thinking back this is the first time to even be rejected upon being invited.

Rather than a shock he was just lightly surprised, and he again understood that Fiona isn't the sort of girl who would fawn over him, and this made him more elated.

「I see, that's unfortunate」

「Well then, I will take my leave now」

Like that, Fiona boldly left the library, as if not she wasn't even regretting the fact that she rejected his invitation.

Nero sent her off while watching the cool and cold Fiona's back with a wry smile on his face.

「You got dumped magnificently」

Suddenly he was called out to from behind.

「Safi, eh」

Turning back, he saw the first person he made promise with, Safiel, standing there.

「It's the first time I've seen you being treated coldly by a girl」

「Yeah, right」

Having the truth pointed out, Nero let out a bitter laugh.

「But, wasn't she a great girl?」

「I don't care」

Safi turned her head away as if not interested and continued saying, "so it's like that".

「Well then, if there is an explanation about why you broke my promise and played with another girl, I would like to hear it」

「.....Ah」

Nero reaction just now was about the fact that he forgot, rather than the promise, but what would await him if he broke the promise.

「It is, you see, that」

「What?」

「It was more interesting to be besides Fiona」

He didn't find any good excuses, so he tried to confess the truth.

「I see, I've heard your words loud and clear——」

Like that Safi, while smiling, touched her glasses.

The glasses which had the work of sealing the 'power' present in those eerie purple eyes,

「『Demon Eyes』 Release」

Were removed.

「I'm really very sorryyyyyyyyy!!!!!!!」

While regretting that next time he would deceive in a better way, Nero shouted the words of apology to Safi.

CHAPTER 237

LET'S START THE CLASS

We, after publically enrolling in Royal Spada Academy, will have the Adventurers' Course classes starting from today.

The details of classes are wide-ranging from study subjects to magic, martial skills, techniques etc, however, the classes we need to appear for in accordance to our rate of progression are limited.

For the time being, I tried showing up for classes regarding Model Magic intended for beginners.

There is almost no necessity for Lily and Fiona to learn the theory of fundamental Model Magic, but for some reason, they are accompanying me.

「Though another world, classroom don't change much」

「The one in Elysion were more clean though」

「Lily doesn't know~, it's my first time~」

While letting out thoughts, we entered the classroom where our intended class was going on.

Different from the school buildings made from modern concrete, everything is made from wood, however the appearance of room, lining of tables and chairs is all the same.

Even the black is fully furnished. It might have been either invented by natural flow in this world or Count Red Wing told about it, either way, it's good and easy to understand.

The space would seem quite small compared to the highschool, but with the attendance percentage of just little over half of people sitting on seats, this much big classroom is suitable for Adventurers' Course.

Incidentally, this place is not main school building with the appearance of a palace, rather, here is one of the branch school buildings which is simple in appearance, and big.

And the students here are mostly the figures of adventurers wearing robes screaming that they all are rear guards, compared to them us three, in school uniform, are strange here.

There are also people who have their faces hidden under the hood, but most of others are young people just like me or little older. There's no way a skilled adventurer would come to classes for rookie adventurers, so these people all are novices.

Those students send inquisitive stares to us three from a distance.

But that's not because of our school dresses, but rather the figures of Lily, a loli fairy, and Fiona, who's looking just great in uniform, are too fascinating for their eyes.

On the other hand I'm having reproachful glares being concentrated at me that even delusional sounds like 「You f*cking son of a bitch playing with two flowers」 can reach my ears, or so I sense it like, I can only pray for it to be persecution complex.

While bathing in those concerning glares, I sit down, and five minutes later the chime for class starting rang.

An male elf wearing ashen-colored robe entered the room,

「Good Morning everyone, this class is——」

And briefed about the class details because it was the first time for us.

「Model Magic, eh」

I couldn't use Model Magic 'till now, but if I learn it from the start, then even I, who can only use black magical energy, maybe able to use it. Even if I couldn't, now that I've gotten divine protection's effect of changing the nature, if I learn fundamental knowledge, then I can use it to construct the magic equations.

Moreover it's about me, who had only original black magic theories made up on purely insights and experience, so maybe I can discover something new, hoping greatly like that I attended the class, but,

「Now, it's about **وال سحر ال سحر** which is the foundation, it's just as everyone knows to turn **سحر ل جراحه** in to **سحر ت و س يع** right, for instance **سحر هجوم** is—
—」

Shit, I don't understand a damn thing he said.

It's not a problem of not understanding the theory or the technical terms are difficult for me, rather this teacher's explanation's important parts are pronounced in the original language of this world, just like enchanting of mages.

「What happened Kurono-san? If you don't understand something, I can teach you」

「Lily will teach!」

The follow-up from the two comes to me, who is raising a grand question mark above the head to this incomprehensible explanation, but teaching isn't going to cover this up, right.

「No, I've understood now」

Yes, I've completely understood, that learning Model Magic is a pipe dream for me.

.

.

For the next class, I decided to try Martial Skills.

Here too, as it was the first time, we started the practice from the most basic Martial Skill 『Slash』 .

I, who has 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 『Kubidan』 』 , can already use four Martial Skills 『KuroNagi』 『Dual KuroNagi』 『AkaNagi』 『YamiNagi』 , however that is just because of the effects from the weapon.

I, myself, haven't learnt any established Martial Skills, so I thought to use this chance for learning it.

If I get the foundations down, then maybe the sharpness of 『Kuro Nagi』 also increase.

But, even if I completed this class, it's not like I will learn various Martial Skills, but only 『Slash』, so I can't hope excessively.

No, if I can learn a single Martial Skill in three months while taking this class, then it's only natural speed for a proper training.

Incidentally Lily and Fiona ——

Lily went to alchemist Simon, and Fiona is fishing out some magic-related books in library.

Well then, with this and that, the place I reached to is the place boasted by Academy, the Coliseum——'s exterior sports ground which is just besides it.

The Coliseum with the appearance of a big dome-shaped baseball stadium, only allows Elite Course and Knight Course students to enter, it's a place completely irrelevant to me.

「Whoa, this people sure look like swordsmen」

On this sports ground, which is twice as big, if compared to the one of my highschool, a group of people was standing on one end while holding their favorite swords in hands.

There are also people wearing uniforms just like me, but most are wearing leather armor or light armor like Chain Shirt.

This class is also aimed at rookies, so all people here are young boys and girls, the armor they wore somewhat seemed like a newly bought stuff.

「Oh, so baby birds are gathered, eh, gonna omit the damn briefing, class starts now!」

Saying that, a male orc appeared, who is also the teacher for this class.

This orc man with a scary face, a body even taller than mine, appeared more like a warrior rather than a teacher.

Well, because he is teaching Martial Skills, so he must be of Warrior Class.

「For now, I wanna look at how you all chicks are show me all you got」

Apparently, he will see our ability with this bastard-size wooden sword, which this orc teacher brought.

While waiting for my turn, I gaze at the figures of other students swinging the wooden sword by shouting 「Eiih!」 or 「Haa!」 .

The beast people, lizardmen and orc students, though weren't able to use Martial Skill, but all seemed to have power outstripping that of humans.

The races with powerful arm strength have superior qualities for becoming warrior.

Of course, the best part of this another world is that there are various methods to defeat that powerful arm strength.

「Alright, next!」

While I think about this stuff absentmindedly, my turn came.

「Oh, you seem good」

I hold the long wooden sword just as I hold the hatchet, and I got praised.

「Thank you very much」

I got happy for being praised for holding a sword, and started to concentrate for attacking with all my power, to answer the orc teacher's expectations.

Even without a hatchet, I somewhat remember the feeling of deploying a Martial Skill.

If I rotate the magical energy, and move just like at that time, though a Martial Skill won't be deployed, but I can strike one sharp attack.

After all, though it was her sealed state, the Mithril Sword reached her.

「Good, come!」

「Here I come——」

I moved a step forward, the sword is already raised overhead, but orc teacher didn't move.

Don't tell me, he has confidence to stop my attack this late, looks like he is quite great sword master.

「——KuroNagi!」

I shout out the name of Martial Skill I have used many times, though not like it would be deployed——or so it should have been, but the wooden sword is covered in the aura of black magical energy, even though I haven't casted blackening on it.

And the feeling of gripping a sword is almost same as gripping the hatchet, and a power and speed surpassing simple arm strength is manifested.

This, certainly, is the Martial Skill being deployed, right?

I hold those suspicions, but I've got no way to stop this already-launched attack towards the orc teacher who still showed no reaction.

SFX: BBbbaAaaaaKKKkkkkiiiiIIII!!

Almost at the same time my attack severely hit the orc teacher, the wooden sword couldn't bear the power and was pulverized.

「.....Ah」

Teacher didn't even raise a voice and suddenly fell on the ground.

At this time, I understood three things.

1. Apparently, even if I don't use the hatchet, I can use Martial Skill.
2. I don't have any need for this class.
3. With this today's class is over.

I'm really sorry orc teacher, I will take the responsibility and take you to the school infirmary.

CHAPTER 238

RE-ENCOUNTER WITH ANGEL

There were no more morning classes to attend, so after roaming a bit around the school I headed towards the school cafeteria on the first floor of the main school building for completing my promise of eating together.

Of course, the ones I made that promise are Lily and Fiona only, Simon is to be holed up in the lab for today and I've got no idea where Wil might be loitering around.

I reached the school cafeteria while taking lot of time, but still before the chime for lunch break rang out, however it seems like those two haven't reached here.

The main school building looks like a French palace, even the insides are like that, hence this school cafeteria is also not an exception.

The hall is already twice the height of a normal building, even the chandelier hanging from there can be said as splendid lightning equipment, this place is more of ball where the banquet of nobles is held and not a school cafeteria.

On one wall there were big paintings of a fantasy-ish title, 『Seven War Goddesses』 , seeing that I was only able to think inelegant stuff like how much would even one sell for, truly I'm a commoner through and through.

That school cafeteria is that gorgeous, but there is almost no one here.

The ones using this main school building are Elite Cadets or Knight Cadets who have their timetables always filled, and they are currently in class.

The people eating meal while sitting must be surely students from Adventurer course or students skipping classes.

For certain they all must be thinking that because it is crowded during lunch break, so it is better to finish eating before it starts.

"It would've been good if we also used the school cafeteria before", while I am thinking that, the chime for lunch break rang out.

Young boys and girls wearing black blazers rush in crowds into the school cafeteria at a speed which tells that they rushed out of class in full speed.

「Truly a lot of people are here.....」

Due to students appearing without a pause the open seats in school cafeteria keep on getting filled.

Holy! I should've secured seats rather than standing at the entrance.

While regretting my failure, I for the two at the entrance as I cannot get any open seat now.

While I was standing there, I noticed the selling method of this cafeteria is meal ticket system, apparently.

Of course there is no automatic ticket machine, but a salesperson at a place like counter is doing the take-and-give of money restlessly.

Looking at this crowd, it would've been better if she prepared coins from before for change.

While folding my arms, I ponder over the best way of usage of this cafeteria.

「Umm, is there again a problem?」

Suddenly, I was called out from behind.

“This voice and speech, I've heard it somewhere before”, while feeling that déjà vu feeling, I turn around.

「Ah, you're from that time」

「Oh, so you did remember me」

Her black hair and blue eyes; along with a beautiful face oozing with elegance of some princess and also the white wings sprouting from her back make her look like an angel. Her appearance is too peculiar that one would never forget it upon seeing it just one.

She is the female adventurer who saved me in Dakia Village, when I was on a standstill because my favorite horse stopped moving.

「So you were a student here」

That is my line.

At that time we both were armed with equipments for quests, but currently we are both wearing the same School Uniform.

Incidentally, she also has that red mantle draped over it, so it seems like she is an Elite Cadet.

More incidentally, the white color of her knee-high sock covering her well-fleshed thighs halfway just seems too dazzling to me. It's not like I have some special attachment to legs but her legs just seem to have some sort of beauty that makes one staring at it, fall for them.

「It's only from today that I've started commuting here」

「So you are a new student」

“No wonder I haven't seen you here before”, she said while revealing a bright smile. Just by hearing her harmless and inoffensive speech and seeing her smile, my heart seems to warm up, as if I'm being healed.

Maybe this is the Charm effect kicking in, well it's only natural if the other person is this beauty.

Well, even if it's like that, because I've already grown somewhat used to Young Lily, so I won't for this effect.

「Oh, now that I think about it, I haven't named myself yet, I'm truly sorry. My name is Nell」

「I'm Kurono. You truly saved me at that time, thank you very much」

「No, it's all good that I was helpful to you」

Nell said as if happy from the bottom of her heart. Her wings on her back also flap; does this mean the same as to when a dog wags its tail?

「Kurono-san is a new student, so you might not know the way to use the school cafeteria, right?」

「Yes, you're right」

For her to say this.....does that mean there is also some other hidden way than meal ticket system.

If that is true, then it's the best choice to learn that way before losing my face in front of her.

「It would help me if you can tell me about it」

「Yes, then I will tell you about it」

Just like when I asked her to help me with the horse, she replied with her blue eyes shining.

「In this school cafeteria, you don't actually order directly, but rather buy a ticket with menu written, which is called as meal ticket, from that counter over there」

Nell-san said as such with an expression brimming with confidence. The place she pointed to was a battlefield, where the concept of line wasn't present, but students were shoving each other to buy the meal ticket.

Seeing that scene I recalled the nostalgic memories of the contest which used to unfold at the school canteen of my highschool; all just for the popular side-dish bread. Apparently, hungry students take the same actions in this world too.

「And then?」

「Then, you submit it the next counter while taking a token number in return. After that, you just need to wait at some seat for your dish to come」

「After that?」

「Eh? After that, you say thanks to the meal and eat your meal」

Hmm, seems like it's same as the normal meal ticket system and doesn't require something else.

It's something one can understand just by watching the students, there is no need to go-out-of-the-way to explain.

But,

「So do you now understand that?」

Upon getting those eyes filled with hope of getting praised aimed at me, I cannot possibly say that I knew that even without the explanation.

「O-Oho, I see, it's the first time seeing a meal ticket using system, you really saved me there, thank you very much」

It's a truth that it's the first time I've seen a meal ticket system, in this another world that is.

「It's fine, something like this is natural work for me as the senior here!」

Nell-san said so while proudly extending her chest. Those big breasts, which are bigger than Fiona's and smaller than Suu-san, swing greatly.

She is wearing undergarments, blouse and even a blazer, yet those breasts actually swing and shake, seriously they have quite a lot of mass.

「Well then, as the senior I will show you an example on how to buy the meal ticket」

She offered as such even though I haven't asked for it, and faced the meal ticket counter, where now students are fighting rather than shoving others.

「Ah, no, I can't possibly ask for that much.....」

「It's fine Kurono-san, leave it to me!」

I didn't had the technique to stop her, who raised her eyebrows gallantly and totally motivated.

「Then, please」

「Yes!」

“Ahhh” She let out an idiotic yet cute war cry, and rushed into the crowd of hungry wolves.

「Ah, Aaah, Um, a meal ticket please, aaaarrrrghhhh!」

And then, without even being able to hold for more than 10 seconds, she lost the battle.

She was sent flying by a golem wearing female school uniform and rushing towards the counter.

The female golem's rectangular-cardboard-shaped buttocks peeking out from her miniskirt had the force just like of a mace.

「Kyaa!」

“Shit, she's totally going to fall”, coming to that judgment, I got serious, covered several meters of distance in a single breath and grab her falling body in my arms.

I didn't had any bad intention, it was the play of God who made this situation in which it seemed like I was hugging her.

「Aaahh——huh, Kurono-san?」

Maybe she didn't see my running speed, or didn't know when I entered from the peripheral vision area to the front vision area, Nell-san showed an surprised reaction while darting her eyes around.

「Are you fine?」

「Ah, yes, thank you very much」

Having the soft and comfortable smile aimed at me from point-blank distance I blushed. I'm also a man, there's no way my heart won't beat faster when talking to a beauty like her.

Though regrettable, I can't possibly be glued to a girl I've met for just some times, so I pushed her body away by putting power in my arms on her shoulder. And in the next moment,

「Hey you! What are you doing to Nell!!」

An ear-splitting voice came; along with, bloodlust——!?

CHAPTER 239

THE WORST MEETING

It was a female student with small build sending the shoe sole of a loafer right at my face.

The bright red twin-tails and the red mantle flutter because of kicking, and in her cat-like cute golden eyes a color of fierce anger was residing.

From her stance the short skirt of her is rolled over, but apparently she is wearing something like spats so it hasn't turned into the legendary panty glimpse situation.

I don't have any recollection of this female Elite Cadet who unleashed a drop kick with the intent to break the bone of my neck.

In other words, I don't have any reason neither am I obliged to take on her drop kick.

Judging from her speech it seems like she is thinking that I was trying to do something bad to Nell-san, hmph, if just I had more than three seconds I could've been released from this dangerous posture, but that's what I didn't got.

Anyhow, right now I have to stop this rocket girl flying at me upfront.

Her body is already fluttering about in the mid-air, and the time extension I have got before the kick lands on my face is below one second.

If this was between a quest I would've returned a fist, cut her from blade and holed her with bullets, but this place is inside the school, and though she is showing hostility, it can be cleared up if the misunderstanding she has is cleared.

If I can, then I want to stop her without hurting her.

I thought to stop her with Shield, but this girl unleashing these magnificent kicks would only continue on pursuit if I stop her kick even once.

In that case, restricting her movements would be the best choice.

「Anchor Hand」

As I was already under pressure for the little remaining time, upon deciding the counter measure I started implementing it.

Though I'm not wearing the Apprentice robe right now, but I surely am wearing the gloves, 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」 』, which Lily gifted to me.

If this wasn't with me I wouldn't be able to create the tentacles precisely and within an instant.

While I am thinking this thing helped me in such an unexpected place, a voice saying 「Master~」 rang out in my head.

「Kyaaaah! W-What is this!?!」

And like that, I succeeded in apprehending the girl-shaped missile just before she landed her kick on me.

Several black tentacles are extending from my stretched-out-right hand and are twining around the girl, capturing her in a net.

After completely nullifying the attack of her, the tentacles binding her put her down on the floor, as if letting her stand over it.

「N-Noooo! Gross!! Get this away from me you pervert Morjura-man!」

「No wait, it's you who came attacking me first, and you also are misunderstanding something」

「Leave, just leave me! Not only Nell, you even want to violate me too! You ought to know what would happen to you if you do that to me!!」

Damn this girl's broke. She's got blood filling her brain, don't think she would listen to my words anytime soon.

And even bad thing is that because this girl let out an hysterical cry, the students in the school cafeteria are all watching me.

Nevertheless, if I unfasten the restraint on her then it's purely obvious that she would either punch me or kick me.

Naturally, I don't want to get hit by her under false charges.

「Sorry, but shut up for a moment」

I moved my index finger in a hook fashion, and one of the tentacles binding the girl move quickly and cover that shit spouting mouth.

「Mph, Mffff, Mmmnffuu—!!!」

Though her voice stopped, with half teary-eyes she started struggling with a red face.

Ah, this is bad, much bad that what I had thought.

Looking from the side don't I look quite the villain here, shit, I need to manage this situation right here and now.

And the one who is able to do is, not me,

「Nell-san is that girl your friend?」

「Eh, Ah, yes!？」

Nell-san had been looking at the developments occurring, absentmindedly, however seems like she finally understood the situation upon me calling out to her.

「She is having a big misunderstanding, can you try to explain it to her」

「Ah, T-Taht's right!」

Like that the Red-haired twin-tailed girl hears the stuff from angel-like Nell-san, and the situation was solved,

「Oh geez, you making things troublesome again」

Or, no truly, not.

The moment that lazy sounding voice reached my ears, the tentacles that should've been enhanced are all cut down.

Looking carefully, there were the corpses of the cut-down tentacles releasing black magical energy along with a person, who seems to have cut them down.

「But, now that you've laid hands of Nell and Charl, I can't remain quiet」

Though I have seen this person just once, I remember him clearly.

This man, with black hair, red eyes, handsome face, with slender tall body covered with the red mantle. His name is, Nero Julius Elrod.

He's the first prince of the neighboring country Avalon; if I believe their family tree then he is a descendant of that Mia-chan.

The face of this prince is composed, but the bloodlust aimed at me cannot be compared to the one that girl named Charl aimed me.

He has put his hand on the hilt of the sword hanging on the waist. It is clear at a glance that it is a Japanese sword.

I see, so he used some sort of Battoujutsu and cut down the tentacles. If he did all that in the short amount of time I looked over at Nell only means that he has got quite the ability there.

「Please wait a moment, Onii-sama!？」

Maybe she sensed this critical situation, Nell-san forced her way through in between me and Nero.

Or rather did she just say Onii-sama.....If it's not my mishearing and those words are the truth would mean that this person's full name is Nell Julius Elrod, right?

Don't tell me, Nell-san is a genuine princess?

「Nell get away from that creepy tentacle man or else we can't kill him」

「N-No way, that is——」

「Relax, I will just half kill him」

「That is not the problem here!」

Geez, this prince is totally rekt in head; I want him to get the reasoning power back.

No I can't say that, after all If I see some wicked looking man binding Lily in tentacles, I will surely kill that person.

「I will do the other half killing, so he dies completely」

「Charl, you too please calm down!」

Having being released from the tentacles, this rampaging friend of Nell-san is now free.

Somehow this situation is getting bad every moment, but Nell-san is standing in front of me with her wings and hands spread out as if to protect me, thanks to that the girl called Charl is not kicking me neither is her brother trying to cut me. At least for now, that is.

It would be good to explain the situation to them right now.

「Calm down and put away your hand from the sword, please? I just saved Nell-san because she was falling and that girl, err, just came flying at me」

「Are you doing this while knowing who they are? They aren't someone you can even touch」

Though you say that, I just now found out Nell-san is a person from royal family, as for this kick girl, I've got no idea at all.

Well, I do know that she is also an Elite Cadet so she must be from some damn great family, but my actions were all the act of god, right.

No, this is the class system society where stuff like this is not forgiven, eh.....

「It's not a problem which is solved that you didn't know them——」

「Please stop if Onii-sama! Kurono-san is not in the wrong, it's me who let the situation come to here in the wrong. He just saved me with good intentions, and Charl is just misunderstanding!」

Nell-san appeals for my innocence forcibly and firmly. Whoah, she's truly an angel.

Maybe he couldn't help but comply to her younger sister's persuasion, Nero heaved a sigh and the bloodlust disappeared.

「Get lost, I will leave you because of Nell」

But, he does look unsatisfied.

Frankly, my heart isn't calm after being made the bade person here, but the other person is a royalty, it's for my own to not get involved with them.

Now that I remember even Simon said to be aware of Elite Cadets, I see, so this was the reason, I learned a new thing today.

Wil interacted with us in that way, so maybe I had been not taking them hot shots seriously, but looks like I will have to beware of these people.

「I'm sorry Nell-san, I made you worry unnecessarily, well then I'll be off now」

「No, that.....I'm also very much sorry, Kurono-san」

After telling Nell-san some words with a nuance to not let her worry, I left the school cafeteria.

Well it hurts me that I got out of the cafeteria after Nero said he would let me go, but I can't help it.

After all, on the entrance Lily in young girl form is unleashing the power of Oracle Field and Fiona is enchanting a Magic that I have recollection of.

「*sigh*, I let them see my uncool side」

Like that, while taking the inquisitive gazes of students in the school cafeteria, I left that place.

For the time being, I will apologize Fiona and Lily for not getting food and then persuade them to calm down.....

CHAPTER 240

THE FOUR AGES

「Oho, isn't it the 『Nightmare Berserker』 Kurono, and his party members guided by a bond made from fate, Lily-kun and Soleil-kun! What a coincidence, no, this meeting can also be something predetermined since the age of gods long time before——」

「Yo, Wil」

「Yoo!」

「Hello, Prince Wilhart」

Yesterday a lot happened in the cafeteria, that we ended up getting back without eating the food, so on today's after school time we, the Element Master, came here to taste the food of school cafeteria, and then, maybe by coincidence, came across Wil.

It might be because the last class of every course ends, that this school cafeteria, that was so much crowded in the lunch break, seemed somewhat deserted.

The students are busy in stuff other than classes, like club activities and quests.

And so, Prince Wilhart was enjoying his tea time while drinking the tea alone, no, with a maid at his side, apparently he had no plans for today's after school time.

Well, it's convenient because he's a person I can talk to, as a bonus, other royalty students like Nero Julius Elrod are not here, so it's surely better.

I just made uproar yesterday, how dare would I confront that rekt-in-head prince. If he was here, I would extinguish my presence on Suu-san's level and immediately run away.

Well, like that I spent the moment of after school time with my friend, well, in short, I brought up a subject I've been wanted to hear since long before.

That is, I want to know more about the Ancient Demon King – Mia Elrod.

「What! You want me to tell you about the dark history which is divine, ominous and smeared with blood——」

「Yeah, Wil seemed to have quite extensive knowledge, so you might be able to tell me」

「Fuhahaha! For you to rely on my omniscient gray matter-filled brain is a really great decisive judgment, Kurono! Very well, it's not anyone else's, but your request. I, Wilhart Tristan Spada, will tell you about the legend colored with bright shining glory, and also the history which has sunk in the shadow of a great abyss!!」

Wil's word seemed like a flattery, but I already know that, without joking, his knowledge is truly vast.

Even Simon was surprised knowing Wil's extensive knowledge.

If Alchemist Simon is the genius of science, then Prince Wilhart is the prodigy of liberal arts, something like that.

When I think like that, the monocle on his right eye seems to be holding a light, filled with intellectuality.

Well, Lily and Fiona who didn't know about my evaluation seemed to be drawing back from Wil upon hearing his way of speaking.

In spite of meeting Wil on the day of enrollment, they are still sending a strange gaze, filled with bewilderment and indifference, so seems like they still think of him as an 『Eccentric Prince』 .

Incidentally, even the maid standing behind him, by vanishing her presence, was looking at him with somewhat cold gaze.

“Well, he might be having problems with her”, I left it at that.

「I came 'here' just recently, so it would be helpful to me, if you start telling me from the start」

「I see. You're right, in that case I will start it with the classification of general history. Those are the Start of Fate, Scene of Beginning, World Filled with Light——」

Eh, are you going to start from the creation of heaven and earth stuff?

The story started with a great prologue, that no one would ever think of, but as expected of Wil, he's pointing out the important parts.

Based on that, I learned the classification of history of this world, no, of this Pandora Continent.

There are four eras – 『Age of Gods』 , 『Ancient Ages』 , 『Dark Ages』 , and finally the current, 『Modern Age』 .

The first one is the 『Age of Gods』 , which is about the start of world.

This is the era, which was not created by people but gods, and they even lived here, this truly can be said as a myth itself.

Of course, nothing about that era is clear.

The existence of this Age of Gods is summarized on that little bit of information, gathered from the historical records left behind during the next, Ancient Ages.

So to speak, for the Ancient Ages, the Age of Gods is like Ancient Ages is to Modern Age, the people from that age had the ruins and magic of Age of Gods was present just as legends.

Next was the 『Ancient Ages』 .

This was the era in which the so-called 『Black Gods』 , who give the divine protection to us living people, lived. The Demon King Mia Elrod was the first one, though.

However, this particular Age lasted for the longest time, even among the accurate history of Spada.

So to speak, the Age of Gods finished, and the world of humans started, in other words it's like Joumon Period in history of Japan. This Age was prospered with wars and different cultures, developed new techniques, established magic civilization and did much more stuff, that created current Pandora Continent.

Incidentally, Mia-chan was born in the latter half of Ancient Age.

Like that, the Elrod Empire which unified Pandora was born, and after an unknown amount of time the empire collapsed, and with this 『Ancient Age』 met its demise.

The next is 『Dark Ages』, as the name suggests, there is no information about what happened in this Age. In other words, this Age is a Blank Age.

The only thing confirmed was that the magic civilization, which continued till now, was completely lost by the time this Age ended.

It is again not known how long these Dark Ages lasted for, however as long as people lived, countries would have been built, and new civilizations would've developed.

And that leads to the current 『Modern Age』.

Calling this current era as Modern Age does feel out of place, but this Age is which escaped from the Dark Age, has developed enough countries so that it can leave various sorts of civilizations for future.

Those countries, in the millennium reaching up to now, have also gotten in wars, been destroyed and then revived. Then rise again and repeat.

Various countries were destroyed, but among them, some are still left.

One of them is this Spada, and the neighboring country Avalon is also the same.

Also, though little in number, but there are legendary figures who have joined the group of 『Black Gods』 in this era too.

One of them is the founder of Spada, the First King.

「——Whoops, I shouldn't speak only about the glorious history of Spada, changing the story back to Legend of Demon King.」

Finally, it's about Demon King Mia Elrod.

「It's easy to figure out that the magic civilization, developed in Ancient Ages, was too advanced, if one looks at the Ruin-type dungeons, however, strangely, there seemed to be various things not too different from now」

「Like?」

「For instance, yeah, Kurono, the child Mia Elrod worked in a particular occupation, do you know what it is?」

He returned the answer with another question.

However, the child Mia-chan, or rather, she looks childish enough to me.....just what kind of work she did?

「Black Magician?」

「Certainly, she could use the black magic since childhood, but he/she didn't use it to work as an adventurer」

You were damn able to use black magic, eh, Mia-chan, you're one terrifying child! No, later he/she becomes Demon King, so it can be said to be natural.

「If it's not Black Magician, then I've got no idea. Just what was it」

「She worked as a shepherd」

The moment I heard this, an image of Mia-chan in fluffy hair, loitering in the farm, while crying Meeh Meeeh, crossed through my mind.

No, isn't this wrong, Mia-chan herself wasn't a sheep, but the one who herded them.

This time an image of her swooning after getting fluffed by a giant army of sheeps! (?)

「Err, that's quite a pastoral work to do」

「Hmm, however, from the small farm, that was present in the Asbel Mountain Range, is from where the legend of Demon King Mia Elrod starts」

If I had to say, this is like the start of a RPG hero, who started his journey from a small countryside village as their birthplace.

No, with Toyotomi Hideyoshi as the precedent of becoming the government controlling boss from being a farmer, it is not impossible for anyone to become great, no matter how they started.

「Most people tend to misunderstand, but Elrod Empire existed long before Mia Elrod」

「Eh, then Mia-cha——Mia herself didn't found the empire?」

Seriously, shit, lately I've been using '-chan' suffix a lot after her name, it was almost about to get out from my mouth too.

Eventually, it seems like she would himself/herself scold me about it, so I've gotta be careful.

「Right, that shepherd Mia-chan would have died as a normal villager, but the fights surrounding the imperial succession of Elrod Empire of that time intensified」

「How is that related to a mere shepherd?」

「Mia was the illegitimate child of Elrod Emperor, apparently」

Holy crap, so that's why Mia was pulled into the front stage of world.

「Now, details of what Mia did before becoming the Elrod Emperor is unknown, as there is not enough detailed records left of it. But, there is no doubt, that Mia was sent to a Knight Academy, yeah, just like the Elite Course of this Royal Spada Academy. It was most probably to not let Mia stand in the frontlines, and to let him/her become a good royalty general. The imperial succession were a problem, but more than that, it was the time of warring states, where the disputes with other countries would never die out」

Even I have heard about this warring states backsetting.

That is because there was such a warring states historical period that there was room for a Demon King to come into existence.

「However, this school-going Mia distinguished himself/herself, and also met the legendary knights who would later become the main force of Elrod Empire. Now, that is truly fate!」

Whoah, looks like Mia-chan worked hard as a student.

However, the image of a student Mia-chan came up in both boys' school uniform and sailor uniform, hence my mind is in chaos.

「Ah that's right, that Demon King Mia's first and strongest Knight was 『Dark Knight Frithier』, whom Mia met just by pure coincidence. It is said that the trigger was that they both were controlling the Punpuns rioting in the whole city, on the entrance ceremony day. This was confirmed by various memoirs and some records」

There are various surprising points, but the one that surprised me most, was the existence of Punpun since Ancient Ages.

Not like it's impossible for them, and they even are related to Demon King's legend, albeit in this way.....

「The others were 『Blue Lightning Knight Athena』, 『Dark Sword Saint Yomi』 and various other members guided by Pandora's Black Gods」

Athena, is it the one from 『Athena Guard Ring』, it's not like I unexpectedly heard about her, but rather that is a quite popular goddess, so I can hear some people talking about her sometimes.

I've never heard the name of Yomi, but judging from the name, he must be giving divine protection to swordsmen or/and swordswomen only.

His name is strangely similar to Japanese name, so his divine protection might be limited to katana users.

「And these three would become Demon King's wives. They all had deep school lives」

「They even married!?!」

「Yeah, the other four was met only after the genuine war started」

「Other four means, there are total of seven people!」

「The story of Demon King's wives, the Seven War Goddesses is quite famous, you see that wall over there, those are pictures made with them as the theme」

Wil extended his finger out very flatly, that it seemed like a sound effect would come out. Anyhow, the place his finger pointed to surely had big paintings with title 『Seven War Goddesses』 .

Yesterday I thought that it's just a work of art, but now, knowing that those seven beauties are Mia-chan's wives, some sort of complex emotions boil up inside me.

Now the problem is, at the time of wedding ceremonies, did Mia-chan wear white tuxedo or a pure white wedding dress.....no, fuck, wait, if the other party are girls, then the answer is completely obvious.

「Wives means that Mia was.....a man, right?」

「Oho, for you to hold doubts about Demon King's gender. Well, I have heard some minor rumors about it」

Now then, what that minor rumor might be about.

「According to records, there are various different descriptions of Demon King Mia Elrod, like a peerless beautiful man, or a giant helm-armor wearing person, sometimes even as a small child and a cute young girl.」

「H-mmm, so it's like that.....」

Damn shit, this only increased the doubts about Mia-chan's true gender.

It would've been better if I didn't ask Wil about this at all.....

「Well, the direct descendants of Demon King, the current royalty of Avalon, might know about the true gender, however that is an undisclosed secret 'till now, even I don't know about it」

Well, there's no friggin way I will ask Prince Nero, so if a chance of talking to Nell-san comes by, I will surely ask this.

While praying that the mystery would finally become clear.

「Hmm? As for royalty of Avalon, I have heard some riot about them occurred in this cafeteria——」

「Ah」

I said that and stiffened my body.

「Kurono?」

「Kurono-san?」

Lily and Fiona were enjoying the tea given to them by the maid Seria, rather than Wil's talk, however just as yesterday's incident came out in our conversation, their eyes filled with anger are faced towards me.

Naturally, they are not feeling anger towards me, but rather this is the eye contact wanting to get the 『Order for Attack』 .

It's already scary seeing Fiona showing those eyes while elegantly holding a cup in one hand, but it's scarier to see Lily, who was in high spirits after being patted on head by Seria, showing those eyes while still remaining in the same posture.

「No, it's fine, I am not concerned about yesterday at all」

「Hrmph～」

「Is that so」

I am grateful that they, though reluctantly, cooled down their anger.

「.....W-what, was it a bad thing that I asked?」

Maybe he sensed the turbulent atmosphere, Wil seemed to be a little drawn-back.

「No, I want Wil to hear about it」

The ones who would believe my testimony can be counted on one hand.

「I see, then I will attentively hear about it!」

Just five minutes later, Wil, 「I'm sorry my sister caused a problem for you」 , said that.

CHAPTER 241

RUMORS OF THE ACADEMY

On the 28th of Red Flame month, in the crowded school cafeteria, certain students were talking about something.

「Hey, it's been a while! Isn't it already 2 weeks since you went on quest? It took some while」

Those were two male students, most probably Knight Cadets and best friends.

In this Royal Spada Academy, talks about quest and other things become hot topic with the speed rivaling that of Adventurer Guilds, and for Knight Course it is faster.

「Yeah, nothing is much different here——no wait, there sure is some new stuff」

The two luckily sat on the seats they secured luckily, and started talking about something.

「In this week there is a fairy freshman——no, not the normal one, this one is big, moreover a loli」

Loli and big is contrary, but

「Eh, seriously? You seen her? Shit you got some damn great luck, I also wanted to see her~」

The friend who came back from quest has apparently already seen the fairy freshman.

「How was she, I hear she is truly cute——Eh, shining? Idiot, it's only natural considering she is a fairy」

He retorted to the idiotic impression of his friend.

「Well, now here's the catch, that fairy is not only cute, but if you get the chance to stroke her head then the person becomes lucky——No seriously, one girl who stroked her head got a complete success in her confession」

“In that case won't every one pat her head”, he replied to his friend's quite natural question.

「You see there is another catch, as she is a fairy, she only lets people with pure and noble heart pat her head, it's not you can go “Hey fairy-chan, let me stroke your head”, I've heard the ones who did this had some problems with their eyes because they got attacked by a Flash——No I'm fucking serious here, the people who have been sent to infirmary have already reached two-digit numbers, or rather, the thing you saw shining was it Flash?」

“Now that you say it”, the friend nodded.

With this he might have believed that the rumor about Fairy is a truth.

「Well, though seriously cute, it won't be good if we laid hands on a loli, so this time a teenager girl, this one is also super-cute」

“Oho”, the friend got into hearing the rumor.

Teenage boys are always super interested in cute teenage girl.

「She is also an freshman——Yeah, you're right freshman at this time can only mean Adventurers' Course. This girl is always in sitting in the reading seat present in the interior most part of Great Library——no, she's not a magic otaku, this girl is more dangerous, even I have seen for that fact」

“How is she”, on that natural seeming question, he replied immediately.

「An eccentric girl with blue hair and golden eyes」

There are no means with the best friend to know if that expression of her is a truth.

「No sorry, but she is like, what you say Divine? Something like that——Yeah, she is super-duper cute babe, she can even enter the Top 5 in our school pretty easily. As a

bonus, even by looking from outside the uniform I understood it, that she's one big-breasted babe」

“Wow” the friend got even more into hearing the rumor.

Teenage boys are always superbly interested in big-breasts.

「But the dangerous feeling is that unapproachable feeling she gives out——Yeah, there were some bastards who tried to flirt with her, but they all were ostracized, in the end, no one even knows her name. That's why her other name is 『Blue Rose of Great Library』 」

“That's quite exaggerated”, the friend makes a joke, but apparently he also is starting to believe this rumor.

「Well let's go see her together this time, that is a sight for sore eyes. You know what if she was my party member then I don't care if I die on the next quest」

He and even his friend, according to basic school regulations, are in an all-male party.

It's pretty rare for getting along with such a cute girl.

「Ah, now that I remember about it, one week ago a really dangerous stuff occurred in this school cafeteria, have you heard about it?」

Seeing his friend shaking his head, the rant-loving he explained about the stuff that occurred here.

「Some certain male freshman tried to violate Princess Nell and Princess Charlotte」

“You serious?” the friend was surprised normally.

「Moreover it was a tentacle attack」

“You fucking damn bitchy serious!?” the friend this time seriously was surprised.

「It was some black wriggling tentacles, attacking them like a Morjura——No, Prince Nero saved them in between and they got out without much problems」

“Isn’t that guy already on execution list?” the friend said something natural, but

「No, for some reason that guy is still commuting to our school. If you see a wicked-looking person with black hair and one-red-one-black eye, then just know that, that is the criminal」

The friend that incident might not be a fake one after one the facial appearance of the man is also so clearly described.

「Rather than getting caught, there are also possibilities that the man will go poof behind the scenes. Well I have heard the legendary Assassin Maid Squad, which is used by Spada Royalty, is finally on the move—」

Like that the rumor talk of students just keeps on continuing without knowing if any of that is the truth or false.

However, on the seat just behind those two students was,

「Ah, aa, arr, what should I do, Kurono-san has got these really bad rumors.....」

The main person of that school cafeteria incident, Nell Julius Elrod, who listened the rumor stories of male students within the school cafeteria, while trembling with fear.

CHAPTER 242

RESEARCH OF EVERYONE

Today is 28th of Red Flame month; it's already going to be 1 week since I have started attending the Academy.

「Hey, isn't that the person the one who tried to violate Princess Nell in the school cafeteria」

「Yikes, his face is so sca~ry」

I get out to the corridor after completing the class of pharmaceuticals, related to making potions and knowledge about various medicinal plants. Some girls in the corridor were gossiping whisperingly.

Thanks to body modifications, my listening power is great, so I can hear their secret talk, no, it's almost as if they didn't even want to hide it.

「Kyaah! He's glaring this way!」

「No! I hate tentacles!!」

While I look over two female students dashing away while screaming, I let out a sigh.

「*Sigh*, I give up」

After that incident in school cafeteria my face became famous overnight, albeit in a bad way.

I learnt about the fact of Nell-san truly being a Royalty from Spada, and that the red-haired girl is called as Charlotte Tristan Spada, the Third Princess of Spada, well, this is something I heard from her true brother, Wil, the next day.

Moreover, the thing that increased their popularity was that they were the famous Rank 5 Adventurer Party 『Wing Road』 .

They have a status of royalty, have outstanding facial looks, and while being a student they hold the power of reaching till Rank 5, in short, they are something like an idol of the Academy.

Like that, because I got into a quarrel with them, though the origin was a misunderstanding, I became the worst, cruel person, just as the two female students from before said.

The people who witnessed the incident in school cafeteria also helped in getting this rumor spread faster. It's not like the related party, those royalty people, would spread rumors on their own.

Like that, currently I'm famous as a sex offender, who tried to rape a maiden with tentacles of darkness.

It is said that rumors last for 75 days, but.....truly, I give up, nothing else can I say. Everyone might think the rumor as false at first, but after looking at my face, they all show reaction of believing the rumor.

What the fuck, acting like my looks are wicked and mean.....no, well, they're truly wicked and mean.....damn fucking shit!

Thanks to that, one week is about to pass, but let alone a friend, I don't even have made a single acquaintance.

Well, Simon and Wil believe in my innocence, so it's somewhat good.

Simon was resenting them saying 『That's why I hate those hot-shots!』 , and Wil was apologizing to me saying 『Sorry, my sister.....』

Apparently, just like I had thought during that incident, Princess Charlotte seems to have quite a hysterical personality.

And, it's a good thing that no bad rumors have reached to Lily and Fiona.

Unlike me, Lily is already getting friendly with other students of every course, like Elite, Knight, Civil, Magical Engineering and Adventurers' Course. She is even getting her head stroked by them, getting candies from them, so she already became quite a celebrity.

Right now too, she might be showing her cute smile, while offering healing to lost souls.

While thinking like that, I walk and reach the place which is now our, 『Element Master』's, new home, the former dorm a.k.a Simon's lab.

Coincidentally, Lily is an old acquaintance of this place's Chairperson, and so she borrowed this place from her.

There is no dorm mother for supervising, and neither does this place get support like other dorms, however, this place doesn't take any room rent for living.

Though it is somewhat worn-down, but it's nothing if one gets used to it. From the viewpoint of Adventurers sleeping on streets, even this place would seem like a palace to them.

If a time comes when the building reaches its limit and falls down, then I will reinforce it with my blackening.

I walk down the corridor, which makes eerie creaking sound upon walking, and open the door to my room, which is still giving a fresh feeling to me.

This room is just like Simon's room, and because this room was originally a double room, it is truly spacious.

Though I say that, I'm sleeping together with Lily, so you can say that I'm perfectly using the double room in the right manner.

Among the furniture provided in here are closet, bed and an old-style table with the chair, which were thrown in the storage room.

So this completely and absolutely plain room is not only used as a living space, but also as my study room, as I have been seriously studying recently, no, saying it more neatly and stylishly, I am doing research about Magic Engineering.

「For the time being, I have to learn 『Eternity』 fast」

On the top of the desk, the same one as used in classrooms, lays a mountain of books and heap of papers with badly drawn magic circles on them.

Thinking back, it's the first time I have started the research of my black magic ever since living with Lily in the hut of the mage in the forest.

Though I was forced to learn the hard way in the first class that I will not be able to learn Model Magic, however, my magic research ways is still not completely run out of options, there are lots of things I still can still do.

In the first place, after I learnt the basics of dark magic from Mossan, I was able to complete my 『Shadow Gate』 and 『Anchor Hand』. So, though I might not be able to learn magic spells, if I grasp a better understanding about magic equations and use my imagination, there should be some sort of effect.

There is still a lot of room for improvement of my Black Magic.

And more than anything, those Handlet Members (Experimental subjects) were able to use better spells and Martial Skills than me, it means they evolved. So if they can, why can't I?

At present, I'm researching (learning) the 『Eternity』, needed for blackening stuff and creating bullets for a gun. It is an enhanced version of the current Black Magic, it's a new magic which I'm developing by using other types of Magic too, for handling the divine protection of fire and other stuff.

Incidentally, I learned that I can use only 『KuroNagi』 with any weapon, probably because I've used it the most in battles, that my body learned it advertently.

In that case I will try to learn the other Martial Skills present in the weapon by using them in fighting quests. At the very least, it won't take as much time as learning a totally new Martial Skill.

Well, 『AkaNagi』 and 『YamiNagi』 are skills that activate not only with the ability of user, but also require the use of power residing in the hatchet itself, so it is the so-called exclusive skill.

Let it be Magic or Martial Skills, the things I need to do from now on are just too much.

But it won't do any good if I will do it in a hurry, so I'm building up my power steadily.

Though, it's not like I never ask myself, just when I'll be able to overtake those Apostles.....

「Kurono-san, are you inside?」

While I'm practicing to draw a magic circle, thinking of other stuff, a knock along with Fiona's voice reached my ears.

「I'm here, come in」

“Excuse me”, she notified before entering, with a snack like a Cheros in her hands.

Recently, whenever I see Fiona, she seems to be holding some new sort of food, looks like she is not only researching about magic, but also in pursuit of the way of food.

「I have brought you a new book」

「I see, you saved me there」

All the books I'm using as reference are the stuff Fiona has brought to me.

Fiona already knows that I can't decipher any language related to Magic with chanting of spells.

And so, she doesn't bring grimoires, which are all filled with spells, but rather she brings the books about Magic Equations and History of Magic, the ones I can read.

She's even looking out for me while she is searching something herself, I just can't match her.

「How is your progress?」

「I still have a long way to understand 『Eternity』 」

I replied with a wry smile.

「Is that so, please do your best, Kurono-san」

Maybe it's some sort of encouragement from her, she holds out the snack in her hand to me.

"Does this mean she is giving me a bite?" I bite the front of the light brown snack in her hands.

「Oh, this is tasty」

「It's good that it was to your taste」

The surface is crunchy and inside is soft, and have a faint sense of sweetness. The sugar seems to be revolving around my head and replenishing my energy.

「So what sort of book did you bring today?」

「It's about Boost」

It's called as Common Support Types, a sort of magic which has the effect of increasing the physical ability or the power of magic. I have experienced that effect with my own body.

I was able to fight on equal grounds with sealed Ai when I got a lower grade boost, I was even able to overpower the Wrath-Pun, that holds tremendous power and speed.

If I have to fight against Apostles or Rank 5 monsters, then I need to have effect of Boost casted over myself.

「But can I use Boost Magic?」

I have known the Martial Skill of pouring magical energy in my body and rotate it to increase the physical ability ever since I was in the laboratory, this Martial Skill can be said to be similar to Boost Magic.

But conversely speaking, I can't learn any more than this, I even have the enhancement from black magical energy casted over myself, so I can't get an image of a new sort of enhancement.

「The Black Magic in itself is pretty rare, so you won't find the Magic Equations for enhancing it just easily. However, the current Kuro no can use the fire attribute, albeit an imitation version」

“We won't know until you actually try it, but”, with that as the preface, Fiona continued.

「The 『Force Boost』 system is based upon the fire color magic, so you might be able to use it with your black magic flames」

.
.
.

Simon's lab has tools and materials scattered here and there, seeming as if a war occurred in here.

Normally, there is only the owner, Simon, present in the room, but currently an unexpected visitor has come here.

「Err, what might you want, Lily-san?」

In front of the stiffened from nervousness Simon was Lily, in little girl form, with the brain of an adult, and was sitting on a small chair while crossing her legs.

It's been some days since they have started living under the same roof, but in this small time the bad feelings Simon had regarding Lily surely didn't go away.

「It isn't something great, but I wanted to show it to you just in case」

Lily draws a magic circle in the mid-air, it can be understood at a glance that this is the Dimension Magic.

The thing she took out from there was a simple-looking ring, which can only be regarded as a white ring.

「What is that?」

The moment Simon neared his face to the ring due to curiosity, the ring made a *clang* sound, and seven needles protruded from inside of the ring.

「Whoah!？」

Lily started her explanations with a cold expression, not moving her brows for even a bit towards Simon's reaction.

「This is the a magic item those experimental subjects, like Kurono, had on their heads. It's called 『Thought Control Unit: Angel Ring』, hearing its name you should be able to guess it's effect right?」

「Thought control unit.....don't tell me!？」

Though not being able to use magic, the honor student Simon sure has a lot of knowledge in that area, hence, looking over the item's name and shape, he understood at once.

That by stabbing these seven needles in the head of a person, the wearer can be controlled. It's a type of brainwashing equipment.

「Now you are going to even use forbidden arts like this!」

The brainwashing magic which can control a human are severely supervised in this Pandora Continent.

With Panic, Berserk and Charm as the representatives, there are various magics that can distort a person's awareness, but they are all recognized as Bad Effect, so there is no problem in learning them, but the magic which make one listen to the caster's order forever with absolute obedience are banned.

Ever since a structural society called City-state established law, the powerful brainwashing magic has been regarded as dangerous existence.

「But there is a genuine example present right here. Even you might have seen the figures of people wearing this fighting, so I don't have to explain the extent of this magic, right」

Simon has fought against a mixed group of Light Golem and experimental subjects, together with the adventurers.

He still remembers those experimental subjects wearing a gray robe and using the same black magic as Kurono, not letting out even a single sound if they injured.

He thought that they might have enhanced their bodies with some kind of magic or medicines, but he had never guessed that they were all brainwashed.

「Don't you think that this thing has a great effect」

「That is.....Yeah, when we were fighting, there was sings of brainwashing dispelling.....」

Though brainwashing, this thing is not an omnipotent power, which gives the effect for unlimited amount of time.

Upon getting some sort of external shock, the consciousness might return, or it may return at any time for no reason at all, in short, brainwashing can be said to be a delicate magic.

「Moreover, it also have the function of telepathic communication installed」

「Eh, wow! So that was the reason for their too-good coordinated attacks」

The movement of experimental subjects was as if they had eyes on the back, even Rank 1 Adventurer like Simon was able to understand their good coordinated movements.

He was now convinced, if they are communicating with telepathy, they won't need to speak or even give a signal.

「By the way, I have been taking the classes for Summoning Magic ever since I have started attending this school」

「Eh, oh, I see」

On the abrupt topic change, Simon was only able to express a vague answer.

“Just what is she doing suddenly”, Simon thought that, and Lily started speaking as if chatting.

「In Alsace, that Summoner who controlled monsters helped a lot, so I became somewhat interested in magic to control others, hence, I even took the classes of Necromancy」

「O-oh—, that’s great」

「There’s nothing great about it, though I attended the classes, but Summoning Magic needs to train summoned monster and Necromancy can only be learned if someone can use darkness attribute, which is impossible for me, as I can only use light magic」

Though she said that, Lily had no disappointed expression, but rather, she was even laughing.

This is the cute smile that had grabbed the hearts of various students of the Academy within past week, however seeing that smile, Simon only felt his spine gone cold.

「But, if that me have this sort of superb ring——」

Lily traced the white surface with her finger, and this time again, while making a *clang* sound, the needles went back in.

「——I can use servants」

「Eh, don’t tell me, Lily-san!？」

「So, now to the main part, hey Simon, can this 『Angel Ring』 be mass-produced?」

CHAPTER 243

BANDITS OF FAUREN

It's almost a week since that eerie tentacles bastard tried to violate Nell and Charl, every time I step into the school cafeteria now, I always end up recalling that scene and makes me want to vomit.

「What happened Nero, you still bothered by that?」

Apparently I'm making a really displeased expression that even this sword fight loving idiot, Kai, can also see through my thoughts.

「Well yeah」

「Wasn't Nell saying it was all a misunderstanding」

「Idiot, to her even a criminal is a virtuous person」

Nell is just too much kind, to a really bad extent; she is completely insensitive of others' evil intentions.

However that is nothing to deprecate, as her brother I just have to protect her, it has always been like that, and I will see it to the end.

「You're right in one sense」

Even this idiot understands Nell's too-good-of-a-kind-person attitude.

「More than anything, I sensed something really unpleasant from that man」

「Eh, was he that gross?」

No, I'm not saying dat, if you exclude the scariness of his face, it is quite handsome.

The problem isn't something like his outside appearance.

「At that time, he didn't feel anything」

Even after embracing the peerless beauty like Nell, attacking Charl with tentacles, and more than anything, even while facing my bloodlust, there was no wavering in those black and red eyes of that man.

A man would show his vulgar lewd side upon laying hands on two beauties, but he didn't had any of that, but rather an expressionless face as if saying he just saved Nell from falling down, and took legitimate self-defense measures against Charl.

When I showed my bloodlust, that bastard didn't even seem to have his guard up knowing that I won't come attacking him because Nell was standing in front of him.

More than the fact that he can use tentacles, it's just that aura he gives out is truly eerie and disgusting.

「Hmm, so is he that strong?」

「He's not weak that I know, maybe he could have power enough to fight against us at equals」

「Whoah, dats' great!」

I'm not a battle maniac like Kai, so I've got no interest in stuff like that.

Though I'm not interested, but because it bothered me, so I searched into that man called Kurono.

「Hey Kai, do you know a Rank 3 Party named as 『Element Master』 ?」

「Rank 3? I don't have to waste my brains to remember the names of small fries」

You're right, the ones who are at Rank 4 can only be the ones who can fight against him.

「Kurono is a adventurer in this party」

「KURONO?」

「It's that man's name, aren't I saying that from before」

「Ah, yeah, Kurono, right, hmm, I see, so that's his name」

He's truly bad at remembering other people's name, but I just said 「maybe he could have power enough to fight against us at equals」 、 so no wonder he might have gotten interested in him, now he won't forget his name.

「This 『Element Master』 was just a Rank 1 party the last month」

And now in just one month, they are Rank 3, meaning they have raised their ranks about 2 ranks.

「Seriously!, isn't that a high-pace same as us!」

「You're right, they obviously have ability above Rank 4, still those bastards are starting from Rank 1」

The story like “a rookie came out from countryside and has truly great potential and is increasing rank at a high-pace” is something that is, though rare, but truth, however there's always some sort of circumstances attached to that person.

Most probably, his comrades, the fairy and witch might also be the same.

I don't know what circumstances Kurono has got, but there no doubt that he's got some secret up his sleeve, my intuitions like these are always right.

No, maybe he will do something in future.....

「The whatever Berserker Wil has been so prideful recently, apparently is that Kurono」

When the school was getting heated up after we subjugated Wrath-Pun, only Wil had a unhappy face.

I had no interest in him, so neither I wanted to hear about the circumstances neither try to search it, but one day abruptly,

「You people were only able to kill that frightening Wrath-Pun because of that gallant work of Nightmare Berserker, you people have only killstealed from him, don't forget this thing ever, Fuahahahaha!」

He had a smug look on his face, apparently that Kurono fought with Wrath-Pun and inflicted serious wounds to it.

At that time I didn't thought much while I saw him getting kicked by Charl, but now I understand that, Kurono might have the power to cut a whole single arm of that Wrath-Pun.

「Well I don't know how strong he is, but there is no doubt that he is an disgusting guy」

「You're right, I want to fight him once」

Ah shit, that Kurono is surely going to be challenged by this idiot in near future.

Well it's fine, at that time this Kai needs to beat the hell out of him, that way even I will be satisfied

「Even so, that Charl, she called us out and now is stumping herself——」

「Sorry for the wait, I found a new quest!」

Speak of the devil, the main person who called out every party member today, Charl, appeared finally.

Nell was behind her; most probably she accompanied Charl to guild for searching a new quest.

Like that, we 4 are meeting in our usual meet-up place, but Safi is still secluded in the lab for trying to make a new servant using the materials of Wrath-Pun.

「So, what did you found out?」

While looking at Charl in good mood, I got depressed that it's again going to be some sort of bothersome quest, still I asked her.

「This was the best for us, so I took it with a prompt decision!」

「So no discussions eh」

「Umm, sorry Onii-sama, even I want to take on this quest no matter what」

「Oho, so rare things do happen」

Kai and I have the same opinion.

I can somewhat guess a vague reason for Nell to be so motivated, but I still asked for the explanation.

「Have you heard about the talks of bandits disturbing areas near Fauren?」

It's not been much since the publicly fights between each countries have stopped, but even this somewhat peaceful age, the bandits or robbers have not been exterminated.

Bastards like that run wild here and there, something like this occurs once or twice at intervals in any country, just think of it as the appearance of monsters.

But, I've not heard any special info about bandits of Spada's neighboring country, Fauren.

「I haven't heard about bandits who are famous」

「Yeah, even these guys from Fauren aren't big enough to make a big name for them」

The bandits is a group of conspirators, if they make an organization of that sort of people then it's natural to get a name for themselves, let it be by others or self-proclaimed one.

But the more their name is famous equates to the same amount of destruction they have caused.

Even if they call themselves with an exaggerated group name, but it won't rise up to become rumors if they are killed fast.

Of course, if they have mind to think they would know if they make a name for themselves then they would be attacked by other countries, adventurers and even bounty hunters, and so if they don't plunder on large-scale there is no need for them to name themselves.

In short, the 『Bandits of Fauren』 Charl is saying are a group which hasn't named itself, neither has done works enough to get a name from others.

「But, just recently some girl of a noble from Fauren was abducted by these bandits, and with that as the trigger the rumors are growing」

「But, if that has happened, then the Chivalric Order won't be quiet, right?」

Fauren is one of the city-states present near the centre of continent, though it doesn't has mighty military force like Spada or Avalon, but as a good city-state it has good public order and can be said to be a stable country.

Its specialty can be said to be that they have peculiar and original magic and pharmaceuticals knowledge thanks to the various Dark Elves who have flowed there from Western direction.

「They can't do the work, hence it's our chance」

「Well, you're right.....so is it like those bandits are doing work by illegally crossing the country border?」

「Yeah truly」

Well, that was the only reason I can think of if the Chivalric Order cannot lay hands on them, and I've never heard Fauren having civil fights.

There's no way they are too strong that even Chivalric Order can't fight, if that was the case, wars would've already started.

「These bandits plunder stuff from Fauren, but apparently they are within Spada」

A stereotypical example of running away from Chivalric Order.

No matter how powerful a Chivalric Order is, it would still create troubles by entering the lands of other country, in the first place it's more common for them to be refused entry.

No matter what they do in their own country, but if bandits run off to some other country then they can't do a shit about it.

Like that, they get their hands off by asking the adventurers, who have got no problems in crossing national borders at all, and so they send the subjugation quests in Guilds, well that's the process.

Of course, there might be some slow-headed bandits who only work in their own country, and the final outcome is their annihilation.

「So we got dumped on the job to destroy their hideout, eh. So, the reason Nell is getting to desperate for bandit subjugation must be that some acquaintance of your was attacked, right?」

「Onii-sama is sharp as usual.....it's not like they are some direct acquaintance of mine, but some students from Knight Course were attacked by this Bandit group」

Two parties of certain Knight Course students challenged at quest, this is quite a common occurrence as based on Knight Course's real fight curriculum.

On the way back that party got attacked by these bandits and was exterminated, one of the survivors who somehow made it back, explained the details, or something like that.

「It was bad luck that the other party was of girls」

If it was just boys, then they would be killed on the spot, the end.

But, the same doesn't go with girls, the possibility of their survival is high.

Of course, though alive they would have been subjected to stuff that would make them wish for death.

「As a student from same Academy, I just can't leave those girls alone like that!」

「It's natural to be prepared for that if they are Knights, but now that we known about this, there's no way we won't save them」

Nell and Charl seem quite serious, if I said NO as the answer, there's no doubt that these two would go on the quest with each other.

But, it's not like I have some reason to refuse.

「You're right, now that they have laid hands on our Academy's students, we can't just be quiet about it」

「Oorah, we will just cut them bandits down easily!」

Well then, the first quest of 『Wing Road』 after reaching Rank 5 is bandit subjugation, but

「By the way Charl, though I haven't heard rumors about the bandits of Fauren, but I do have heard rumors about some seriously influential Slave Traders in Spada」

「Eh?」

「Maybe this case has some sort of backside to it」

CHAPTER 244

PURSUING THE MONSTER OF TRIAL!

24th of Red Flame month, night, in the former dorm's——or rather, now people are living so it's fine to call it a dorm, right. Anyhow, in the dorm's lounge the residents, Me, Simon, Lily and Fiona had gathered.

Of course, this lounge is just a spacious room with a table and chairs set-up, we have just named it like that on our own accord, even so we four gather here to even eat meals.

It's somewhat disappointing that we cannot eat meals together every time, but it's only natural because everyone is secluded inside their rooms for doing their research works.

And, we dined together this time, after that started exchanging information gathered, in others it is a chatting time.

「——If I accompany Lia-nee's ridiculous training anymore, I will die no matter how many lives I had」

「Looks like your sisters has created some great trauma」

「Yeah, currently I don't have to see her face everyday, so I'm truly grateful for this dorm life, but in near future she would come saying that I need a physical inspection and take me back, I hate going there, ah, Onii-san how about you send her back, you can even use power to send her back」

「No, that is too much.....」

Isn't that bad, she's Simon's elder sister, she's Spada's general, and I don't even know if I will win against her.

Well, currently it's less of a chat and more of a complaint to Simon's sister, but this is also fine, like this we can cultivate a better understanding, I think.

For the time being, I have understood that Simon fears her sister really very much.

「Don't be so pessimistic, here eat some pudding」

「Yeah, thank you Onii-san」

Incidentally, the pudding I made with my whole heart is decorating this dining table right now.

The reactions were the same as the one I saw in Irz village and everyone is eating the pudding with relish.

There is even a person who is silently eating all the pudding while making a tower with the empty cups.

Setting that aside, I'm thinking of start my topic.

「In truth, I went to school after a week and——」

Though school life is important, but my core occupation is an adventurer, so I can't possibly neglect it.

「Speaking of Guild, doesn't Kurono-san always go to the place of a beautiful elf named Erina, right」

「Onii-san, Erina-san has a high rate of successful applicants」

「Eh, what is with this flow, I thought of seriously talk about quest」

Just because of a single harsh sentence of Fiona, this talk has turned into me being seduced by the charm of the receptionist.

It's not like I always go to her place, and I'm not even aiming for her.

After the incident with serial killer Joto, I have just become acquaintances with her, I seriously don't have any ulterior motives when I talk with her.

That's why, please Lily can you stop sending those cold stares to me, when she was eating pudding before she was truly a child, now I'm sure that her consciousness is back to her adult form.

「Yeah, it's about time we take on a Rank 3 quest」

Whoa, as expected of Lily, she's completely and elegantly ignoring this troublesome suspicion, I'm sorry doubti——

「As for the talk about this girl named Erina, I need details later」

Ah, I see, so it's no good, no I truly understand it now.

At the time of proving my innocence it's going to take a lot of time.....setting aside these melancholic feelings, I chose to speak the main points.

「You remember about the six monster for trail, right?」

「Yes, If I'm right then it was that if we defeat monsters like Wrath-Pun, you will get the divine protection, right」

Fiona gave a perfect answer, if just she wasn't poking the pudding with her spoon, surely she would've given a more serious aura.

「Yeah, one of the six seems to have appeared near」

The name of that one is Greed Gore.

According to the reference books I saw in the reference room, this guy's habitat is a Rank 5 dungeon 『Ell Grand Canyon』 located far south-west from Spada, it appears very rarely, and because the place is quite far so before going to its subjugation one would like have a definite eyewitness report.

And the eyewitness report about Greed Gore has come, but

「Fauren? Isn't that the neighboring country of Spada」

Just as Lily said, this eyewitness report has come from the neighboring country of Spada, that is Fauren.

「Ell Grand Canyon is more south side from there, isn't this place just too far from the habitat?」

Simon's doubts are truly right, normally it would be thought as fake or a misjudgment, but

「This information has full authenticity in the Guild, there are various other eyewitnesses, and even the Chivalric Order of Faren, out for training had encountered it」

If tracing the paths of all eyewitness reports, then this Greed Gore apparently departed from its original habitat Ell Grand Canyon, and has been coming towards east, towards our area, steadily.

Incidentally, when the Greed Gore met encountered Greed Gore it suddenly vanished, hence no fight started neither there were any casualties.

As the monster had the danger of Rank 5 so the Chivalric Order formed a Subjugation group, but in the end, they didn't see it again.

「I've got no idea what is Greed Gore thinking while straightly heading towards the east, but we can guess that it could have entered Spada territory judging from that speed」

「I see, so it means that it appeared in a place that is perfect for us to go at, right?」

I nod at Fiona's word to show my agreement.

It's almost like it appeared just to grant me the trial, but Mia-chan had said that 「It will go with natural development」 so there must not be anything intentional in this.

「Only this guy has been spotted till now, and I also think that this will be the only chance to defeat it. The Guild has only given out warnings and there is no official quest for it, in other words it would be completely freelance work, will you accompany me? 」

「Of course, good chance can't be bought with money」

「I also think the same」

「Thank you, then it is decided」

With prompt replies, we all agreed on the topic, and it's decided we would go on Greed Gore Subjugation.

「This time we shall be prepared well and fine before fighting a Rank 5 monster. If I remember correctly, Greed Gore uses earth attribute, right?」

Fiona said a perfect stuff an adventurer should say, if just she didn't that small bit of pudding on the edge of her mouth, I would've started revering her.

But certainly, we had a hard time fighting against Wrath-Pun because we didn't have proper preparations against that guy's strong fire resistance.

It can be said as basics for adventurers to prepare themselves and the equipments based on the subjugation target.

「Yeah, Greed Gore uses earth attribute, it would be quite hard stuff」

According to the info, Greed Gore, just like Dagger Raptors, is a dinosaur-shaped monster, in short is the Tyrannosaurus AW.version, apparently.

It is a nonsensical guy who can freely use the Earth Extra Magic and move underground just like Morjura.

「For the time being, after working out a plan, we will leave as soon as preparations are over」

.

.

.

Two days since then, on the last day, 31st of Red Flame month, we 『Element Master』 decided to move out towards the south-west of Spada for subjugating another monster for the trial

In front the dorm are Wil and the maid Seria, along with Simon who has gotten dark circles under his eyes, apparently he pulled an all-nighter.

「Oh, Kurono, you're finally looking more like a real Berserker with that profound armor」

Wil said as such while tapping on my shoulder, I end up showing a wry smile, well I knew that he would say something like this after seeing my armor-wearing figure.

The current me is not wearing the trademark of a mage, the robe, rather I'm clad in a armor made from steel with high defensive power,

The fact that it can use earth attribute means the attacks are going to be just physical ones, so it's more important to protect on body from those rather than heat and electricity in this case.

While facing a Vs. Greed Gore situation, I bought an armor with all my heart.

However I wasn't able to get armor casted with Enchant upon it like the armors of those Heavy Knights of Crusaders, so I only have a mass-produced stuff, even the design is really simple.

Even so I have taken help from Fiona and engraved the Magic Equation of 『Eternity』 on my own accord, and even raised its defensive power after applying blackening over it with gentleness and love while taking a whole day's time for it.

Naturally Fiona's explanation was,

「Kurono-san, here you pour the magical energy with full power like *Boom*, and here with a *swish* feeling, and here you go *heave-ho*」

Completely filled with onomatopoeic so it took helluva time to decipher it all.

Well concerning the results, my armor has turned into an eerie jet black color which doesn't reflect sunlight at all. Its color is almost like the Adventurer Guild in Alsace Village.

Incidentally, though this armor is a mass-produced stuff but it surely isn't cheap, Lily and Fiona have pitched in near half of its price, and like that my debts are just increasing, truly a sad story.

While we're at it, Lily is in her usual one piece dress and Fiona in her usual witch appearance with her usual defense, in short the person becoming the vanguard and who needed the most defense is me.

I wish they would recall my official Class name.

「By the way Kurono, I've got to talk something with you.....」

Wil said that with a strange appearance which made me think if it's something hard to say, then he moved his face closer to me as if he's going to start some secret talk.

「What is it?」

「Aren't you, Kurono, going to the south-west of Spada, the area near Fauren's national borders, right?」

That's right, the most probable place it would appear is that place, for the time being I will collect eyewitness reports on the actual location, then make the feet do some labour.

While hoping that upon reaching close enough, this left eye of mine will point it out.

「In fact, my sister who caused trouble for you the other day.....」

「Err, was it Charlotte-chan?」

The Spada's princess most who didn't get a good impression of me at the first meeting most probably would have gotten her guard up against me, or so I can easily guess.

I don't have any intention to say bad about her, but personally I would rather refrain from meeting a person like that.

「She went on a quest to subjugate bandits working near that area, when I searched a little more about it, I found the other party has even got bodyguards, no matter if they are Rank 5, I'm still anxious」

I see, so it came to bandits.

It's only natural to be more worried when the opponent is not a monster but humans, as it would not be a fight with only pure ability but also with cunning traps and whatnot.

The party Charlotte-chan is in is a Rank 5 party called 『Wing Road』, though they are Rank 5, but judging from their ages they surely don't have enough experiences to be called veterans.

Well even I'm only 17 years old so I can't possibly speak that proudly about the way of adventurers.

「It's painful for me to ask you this after what happened, but if something happens to my sister, please save her」

「Well, it's not I will hesitate to if she is attacked in front of my eyes, but there is guarantee we will meet over there, we both parties have our own goals」

「No, that alone is enough, thank you, I can be somewhat relieved knowing that you will be somewhere near there, you can even laugh at me as if I'm an idiotic brother」

「No, I know the feeling of wanting to protect your siblings」

Though there is no little sister in my case but there sure is a elder sister for me, so I don't there is much difference.

Wil said his thanks with a bright expression.

「Ah, is your talk over? I have got something to give to you, Onii-san」

「H-Hey Simon, are you alright, you seem staggering to me」

I let out those words to Simon who indeed didn't look normal and walked like a zombie.

Maybe he himself is not worrying about it, or doesn't have composure to worry about, he just presented the black case in his hands to me straightforwardly without any explanation.

「You want to give me this? What is inside this then?」

「I heard Onii-san still haven't bought a new wand for yourself, so I made this in haste, it is still in early phase though」

Simon opened the case with heavy eyes, and inside was a single gun present.

Its appearance is the same as the Contender gun he possessed at first, but this one has a shorter barrel, so is looking more like the real thing.

「It's a one-shot gun just like my first one, but if it's you, Onii-san, then you can use it just like that machine gun in Alsace. I have put a Magic Equation in the chamber and barrel so if you shoot with this then the penetrating power of your Bullet Arts will surely be increased if compared to normally firing it」

Moreover, the barrel are two, they are made in horizontally bipartite form.

Firing simultaneously will increase the power, and because I will be using it so there was no need to worry about recoil, anyhow Simon just planned the blueprint of it aiming for a higher power, and the one who made it is Stratos Smithing Workshop.

「Whoah, that is great!」

Nevertheless, so this is the so called appearance of guns as extension for wands used for magic, eh.

「And this, I was only able to make some of these exclusive bullets」

Saying that Simon handed over to me bullets in a pouch-like bag, I realized that each of the bullets have a magic circle drawn on it.

「Is this what I think Simon——」

「It's fine, after drinking that eerie potion of shady origins for keeping myself awake and increase concentration power, so I don't think there is any spelling mistake in the circle」

I look at Fiona from the side of my eye, and see Fiona giving a thumbs up while holding a potion bottle filled with some sort of poisonous red colored liquid inside in her one hand.

Apparently it is an original potion by Fiona herself.

「I see, you work really hard」

I'm happy that he even went to the extents of doing something similar to a shady doping, but at the same time I'm worried about him doing so much for me.

In fact, is that potion even drinkable? Simon even said 「eerie potion with shady origins」 as the preposition.....no, it's better to not think about it for now.

「Thank you very much Simon, now rest up」

「Yeah, Good night Onii-san」

While thanking Simon who is loitering on the line of dream-world and reality while mumbling some stuff, I put the gun and bullets into the 『Shadow Gate』 .

「Well then, we're going」

「Yeah, I'm waiting for a new legend of Nightmare Berserker!」

「Don't mind Wil-sama's reckless remarks, please have a safe trip」

「*yawn* Onii-san, do your best~」

While taking the farewell words, along with Fiona and Lily, we left the dorm.

CHAPTER 245

THE THREE BODYGUARDS

The hideout of the bandit group working in Fauren is located on the outskirts of Isckia Village which got its name from a dungeon called 『Isckia Hills』 .

The hideouts of bandits would be dirty small hut or a dark cave, but this place alone gives an impression completely different from those stereotypes.

After all, this place is a neat and clean mansion, a place no one would think bandits would live in.

Seeing the quiet environment of greenery surrounding it, one would think it is some villa of a noble, and, some years ago that was the truth.

As for what karma this mansion degraded to a point of being used by bandits is something that only some people among the higher-ups know about.

However, though they might not know the details but everyone do understand the gist of it, that is the same for the bodyguards who were hired from outside.

「It's a mansion of some Slave Dealer, I have heard that」

One of the three bodyguards who attacked the student party just the other day, the giant skinhead man, Zack a rank 2 Adventurer asked a question regarding the mansion and got that as the answer.

The one who answered Zack's question is another one of the bodyguards, a katana-wielder with blue eyes and blond hair, Ludora.

When Zack first met him, looking at those vacant eyes and haggard body he doubted that this guy can even speak, but after accompanying him till now he knows that this guy can reply just fine, and so he can call out to him less timidly.

「Cheh, from my view this place is really small too small, I wanna live in a damn big place!」

At the very least, Zack thinks he is very easier to talk if compared to this always-boasting one-eyed Golem, Galdan.

「A certain Slave Dealer, eh, maybe our true employer might be someone really great whose name even I might know」

In the first place, the client who hired them is anonymous, they just know that he is a Trader who pays generously. The representative of target of escort, the bandit group aka Slave Dealer, a man named Robert is the only contact person between them and the client.

The man who was talking to the party of students was Robert. Surely his tone and appearance is like that of a hoodlum, but he is the only one who holds the direct connection with the Slave Dealer in question. Unexpectedly, his true job might not be being a bandit but a trader.

In short, that Slave Dealer is the boss, and this bandit group Robert leads, is the way to restock their commodities aka slaves via bandit-like ways.

Though he hadn't searched the background, but Zack believed more than half in the authenticity of his current guess.

Among the three, only he was Rank 2 who couldn't even use a single Martial Skill, but he was the only one who knew the workings of the underworld these guys lived in.

「Well, as long as they pay us, I don't care who the person is」

And he knew the fact that ignorance is a bliss, after all he was just an expendable asset. If his old friend hadn't introduced him, then Zack, who had returned to being a honest adventurer, would never take such a shady private contract quest.

Of course the reward was also fascinating, to the extent that Rank 2 quests can't even be compared.

「It's a good decision」

While hearing the words of praise from Ludora, Zack lied down on the leather-covered sofa.

「By the way, Boss Ludora」 [1]

The reason Zack calls him like this is because, in this short fellowship, he has known that this man is the strongest person.

Unfortunately the second one was Galdan, a human can never win against Golem's power without Martial Skills and Magic.

「What?」

「Boss, aren't you going to participate in that place, they even invited saying they would give the pure ones」

As the subordinates of Slave Dealer, it's a basic thing to always send the prettiest woman untouched.

Naturally, with slave girls in front, the men who had fallen down to the grades of bandits certainly won't be able to hold back, and even though with the strict order of not touching the girls, some will break it.

Hence, they have taken the measure to do as the please with girls who seem normal, so if they have an outlet for their desires, they won't stake their lives for raping the more good girl.

Therefore, the Spada's schoolgirls they captured the other day have been used as the tools for the relaxation of bandits, no, even currently they might be using them in the floor below.

「I have refused the women due to some circumstances」

「Hmm, that is pretty stoic」

「What is with women this and that, truly shit, them was getting heated up from morning to evening, truly eyesores」

“That is because you're a Golem without any sexual desires”, there was no obligation to retort like that, was there?

「From my view, I'm more concerned why you haven't laid your hands on that」

「Hehe, so it does look like that」

Zack shows a self-depreciative smile while lying down. Even he himself understands how other people look at him.

And that he is mostly the same as what he looks like.

However,

「I have resolved to not lay hands of little girls」

「That is quite an admirable mental attitude」

「It's nothing that exaggerated, just a superstition」

In the Adventurer Profession where life and death are side-by-side, there are many who are deeply religious even without divine protection, believe in superstitions, are concerned about their result from the fortune-telling, and there are even who follow the rules they made themselves.

「I think if I do that, then even a bad person like me will have my life saved once again」

On the neck of Zari, who just said something deeply moving, a fairy accessory was shining along with the Guild Card joined to it by a chain.

「Huh! You an idiot, eh, tryin' to pray ta God? That is the shittiest thing」

「Shut up will ya, if you actually narrowly escape death, even you will become a religious person」

But even if said that, it's not like he would understand those emotions. In fact, from the mouth, no, Galdan's a golem so from his speaker the words of denial come out.

「Moreover if I laid a hands on a girl, then I would end up in a relation from which I won't be able to escape even if I want to. I totes don't want to become like those bandits」

Just like Robert said to the students, they are outwardly Slave Dealers.

Though they are doing the work of bodyguards, but they have never seen the stage where they would attack a village and abduct the girls. However, from the feeling they get from those guys, there's no doubt that they are involved in abduction and stuff.

And in the case with student party the other day, under the pretext of retrieval of slave, they went too far, this can't be denied.

「Huh? What are bandits, aren't we bodyguards of slave dealers」

Well, there are also some idiots who would believe whatever told to them, so thinking that he didn't had any obligation to teach him stuff, Zack ignored Galdan's words.

「The dark elf girl we sent before, no matter how you look at it, she didn't seem like a village girl who sold herself」

Ludora silently nodded to show affirmation.

But, Ludora and Zack, both don't try to search more into the birthplace of that girl.

「Nevertheless, in some time our contract period will be over, after that I will get out of this dangerous place」

「Cheh, you damn coward human being, don't you have the fighting spirit to do something with your own power if some trouble arises」

Zack sends him a gaze filled with contempt, after all this golem didn't seem to know that every person has their limits.

But Zack also felt pity for this golem, who idiotically believes in the greatness of his power.

As soon as the air turned somewhere between turbulent and calm, a knock along with the voice of a man came from the double door.

「Gonna intrude in, Teachs」

Saying that the one who entered was the representative of this group, Robert.

「The guys who went down in the village asked for help, even a single person is enough. How about it?」

「Is one fine?」

For preparing against an unexpected accident the three of them would move together, particularly it would trouble Zack if some powerful monster or enemy appeared.

「I wanna have at least 2 people remain here」

This mansion is located in the mountains on the outskirts of village, hence the possibility of monsters appearing here is higher.

And what if some adventurer who determined the location of this hideout would suddenly attack here? They have let one student escape, so the Guild might be on the move.

「Got it, I will go」

Zack took the battle axe lying besides the sofa in his hands and stood up.

It's not like he wanted to work hardly as a bodyguard, but he felt uncomfortable in this mansion where other girls were being raped.

「Whoah, Zack-san, Thankz」

Without any particular farewell words from other two, he left the room following after Robert.

Translator's Note:

[1] That boss is the same as you imagine Okita Souji saying Boss (Danna) to Gintoki.
(From anime Gintama)

CHAPTER 246

RECKLESS BANDITS

The targets were three adventurers.

「Hey, I'm saying to start up a fight and properly take the money to stop fighting」

Zack took several bandits aka Slave Dealers from the mansion he was residing. Upon reaching Isckia Village, on the front gate, he heard that information from the man he was about to meet up.

They couldn't check the Guild Card hence the rank is unknown, this information surely is enough to make one anxious, but more than that,

(Hey, this is just too false-sounding, so you guys want to snatch the more pretty women for yourself, eh)

If they had already attacked the adventurers and pulled back temporarily, the atmosphere would be more dangerous.

From the point of Zack, they seemed to have forced out an unsatisfactory reason.

But, there was neither time or labour to confirm it, more than anything he had worked all till this point as their bodyguard, if by chance, just before the day contract period ends, he is falsely accused of something, then his pay and everything will be ruined.

(Well it's the problem of adventurers to show-off by walking with such a pretty woman)

Though he's not feeling motivated, but for the job Zack and others run on the path on horses following behind the man.

The sun has set down and the veil of darkness descends, so running on the path on a horse is difficult, it wouldn't be so difficult if the path was maintained time-to-time, of course only if the rider has that much ability to horse-ride.

After walking for a while, they met up with the leading unit which was tracking the adventurers, as for the adventurers they silently moved to the campground site where the Student party had once camped.

「Hey, not even a single person for lookout, this guy's some damn amateur.....」

In this excessively wide plain without any shelter to hide, there was a single tent and brightly burning bonfire.

Just besides it were two horses tied up to a stake hammered in the ground.

This manner of defenselessness is something even those villagers can't do, Zack wanted to give a lecture to the person camping here in such a careless manner.

He had heard that the adventurers were 1 male and 2 females, probably the male is some green young man of a noble and is amusing himself in adventurer-roleplaying along with his pretty maids.

In that case he felt less sympathy, and if the male was making love with the two beauties then his sympathy is just non-existent.

「Gonna ask for just in case, that camping ground doesn't has a powerful barrier, right?」

If there is a Rank 4 Mage, then even without a person for lookout, the person can create an impregnable fortress.

If they neared carelessly then they might become human fire dolls by a fire barrier, or ice sculptures by a ice barrier. Zack and others don't have any means to oppose such a power of magic, hence they are being vigilant.

「There is none, I had investigated it before and there was no reaction at all」

「So what will you do? The 'negotiations' like the last time?」

「No, this time we will attack at once. Kill the man and capture the women, even they all seem sleeping soundly, this won't take more than 5 minutes」

Apparently they were going to use a surprise attack plan.

A campground without a lookout, other party is sleeping soundly without any defense. With this much favorable conditions it's surely better to finish up the work at once.

「We will go, and teach you remain here. If something occurs then do help us」

「Roger, I will pray that my turn never comes」

And the bandits creep up to the campgrounds like a snake aiming at its prey.

Zack stayed behind at a little farther place while holding his battle axe in one hand.

The bandits move in the darkness without any torch or lantern, but the bonfire near the tent is working as the best landmark.

Against this tent set-up in these plains without any shelter, the bandits' side can make use of their numbers and attack from all four directions.

Being illuminated by the light, the knives in the hands of men glittered.

The tent was already encircled by several tens of men, and were about to cut the cloth of tent and invade——or so it seemed like.

「Bullet Arts Full Burst」

At that time, in the silent dead of night, a dry loud sound of explosion roared.

「Wha!？」

Widening his eyes Zack witnessed a scene he had never expected, in other words the scene of the opponent counterattacking.

Without knowing what sort of attack that was, the men nearing tent for invading, screamed in anguish and started falling down one-by-one.

Thanks to being near the bonfire, the scene of men having their heads burst open like a trampled fruit, was easily visible.

In a second several men died, the men left showed fear.

In this unexpected situation someone would give out the orders for their movements, but the opponent adventurer was more fast on his feet.

Three shadows jumped out of the tent's entrance as is piercing through it. The moment he saw it, Zack's mind went blank due to fright.

「H-He is!」

A man with large build wearing a jet-black ominous armor came out first, but rather than feeling the eeriness of his armor Zack's eyes were fixed on his face without a helmet.

He obviously remembered that black-haired man with sharp black and red eyes.

He was the main reason that Zack had no choice but return to being a decent adventurer, there can be no way he would forgot.

「No way, wh-why——」

But, he had known that the other man was an adventurer since seeing the guild card hanging from his neck, a meeting like this was not non-existent to happen.

The reason Zack was more surprised is because, with that man was, of all people, his life savior.

「——Why is fairy-san also with him!?!」

Behind the man was a shining small figure of a person, it was a figure of a beautiful and cute person that everyone would call a fairy.

There was no way he would mistake her, she was the person who saved him from the fate of being eaten by slime and having his bones melted. Her figure was vividly burned in his brain.

The girl with two pair of wings shining in rainbow-color, long platinum blond hair and emerald green eyes, currently once again appeared in front of Zack.

And the white light which entirely exterminated the slimes, also made its appearance here.

「Arrgh, too bright!？」

The Flash sent out by the fairy was not only dazzling but also the hot winds which were the waves of attack also blew through the surroundings.

A slimes jelly-like body would burst open, but currently that destructive light was aimed at all humans, the blood was spilt and hand, legs, torso and other body parts were flying around.

And it wasn't just the fairy causing bloodshed with heat and explosion.

The third adventurer, a witch in all black, fired several fireballs having equal explosion power as the Flash.

The red fire and white light display their furies as if wanting to grill the surroundings.

There was no magic for a normal man to be in the vortex of that storm of destruction.

The several tens of men attacking on tent vanished from the world within the short of five minutes and all that was left was charred corpses.

「Ahh, Arrgh.....」

He watched his comrades having tables turned at them, no, it would be more appropriate to call it being flatten down one-sidedly.

Zack showing that reaction had completely forgot his work as the bodyguard and was trembling. He tried to move his fear-stricken frozen feet with all his strength.

But, before his legs even started to move,

「Aaaahhhhhh!」

He was captured in the gaze of black and red eyes.

The distance between him and the man was several tens of meters, he shouldn't be visible under the cover of night.

That's how it should've been, the man's both eyes were aiming right in his direction—in short, their eyes met.

「Uuuwwwwwwwwwwaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhh!」

Throwing the battle axe, he finally turned around and ran at full speed.

He hated the fact that they had tied up the horses quite back to sneak up to the camping ground without making any sounds.

(I can escape if I reach there!)

He ran whilst believing in that hope.

But, Zack wasn't right in his mind currently, hence he didn't think that the adventurer in the camping grounds would be able to catch him if they untied their horses.

Eventually he didn't sense a horse chasing him at all, instead he clearly heard the footsteps stepping on the meadows just from his rear.

It was unbelievable, but the distance of several tens of meters was easily covered in less than three seconds.

"Impossible", by the time he thought that a black shadow passed by him like a gale with super-high speed,

「Stop there」

And the man in complete black with just his red eye shining crimson stood in Zack's way.

He was grabbing hatchet seeming like a bastard sword in his left hand, a dark red aura rose up from it.

He couldn't come up with a single idea to defeat this man.

He had thought this man was strong when he first met him, but it was this moment he thought he was an unreachable overpowering existence.

If this man was serious, then killing Zack would be as easy as twisting a baby's arm, last time he was truly 'turned a blind eye'.

Zack understood that his life-and-death was completely in the man's hands, he bend his knees raised his hands and took a pose of surrendering.

「W-Wait.....Help, please.....」

With that hoarse voice, he somehow spit out words for begging his life.

The eyes of the man looking down on his pitiable figure were after all sharp and had a cruel glint in them.

CHAPTER 247

CARELESS BANDITS STRATEGY!

The month changed. We reached the base point in subjugating Greed Gore, the Isckia Village on the 3rd of Platinum Month.

「.....We are being tailed, eh」

It was when we were heading towards the Adventurers' Guild of Village.

Occasionally I would feel a not-friendly stare at me from the crowd of people.

「Yeah, we surely are being tailed」

「Uh-huh I feel uncomfortable~」

Unfortunately, it wasn't my imagination, apparently.

「Geh, they don't look good people even from their looks」

Whilst walking the main street reaching to Adventurers' Guild, I looked around indirectly and confirmed the figures of people tailing us.

This Isckia Village was a big village like Kwarl Village. There were not only villagers but armed adventurers walking on streets too.

The people think they were hiding well in the crowd of adventurers, well if they wore leather armour then I wouldn't have noticed them, but it was impossible to not notice them since they had been sending those stares at me without having any intention of hiding the presence given by stares.

At the current phase they were only sending impolite stares at me, so it can't possibly pick a fight with them saying 「What da fuck ya watching, huuuh」 .

Surely they must be having bad thoughts after being hooked but the beautiful looks of Lily and Fiona.

I had no relation with these worries in Irz Village, but in a greatly populated country like Spada, men looking at them with those stares have increased.

However, it's their own freedom to think whatever they want, though it is unpleasant, but unless they try to make of move on these two I could only ignore them, this applies to the people tailing us at present.

Like that, whilst paying attention to the rear, we collected the detailed information about Greed Gore in Adventurers' Guild.

As a result, we had to hear the depressing information about the unknown whereabouts of Greed Gore after the eyewitness reports stopped since some days before.

It was guessed that it may have gone deep in some dungeon where only some adventurers would dare to step in, otherwise there was also the possibility of it moving underground to some other place.

After reaching to this standpoint, I gave an order of looking over the place it was last spotted at, the Rank 3 dungeon 『Isckia Hills』 .

We decided upon our plans and left the Adventurers' Guild only to find that the sun was already sinking down.

However for increasing the possibility of encountering Greed Gore, we decided to camp near the highway then left Isckia Village.

「We're completely being tailed」

Several minutes after riding the horses Merry and Mary, I noticed the group tailing us in the village still following us.

「Yeah, we are completely being tailed」

「Uh-huh, I feel really uncomfortable～」

As expected it wasn't my imagination, apparently.

「Are these the so-called bandits?」

「Most probably, it is a quick-witted person, they might understand the value of our equipments in just one glance」

Now that she said it, Fiona's robe was made by some great high-grade materials, or so the old lady from robe specialist shop was saying.

Lily's one-piece is also made from the high-grade fabric of Ancient Birod, my armour too has been reinforced by blackening, so it could be said as a magic armour.

「I see, but I was thinking that they are targeting us because of you two, after all you two are really beautiful」

「Is that true?」

「Why must I lie」

「Really~? Lily is beautiful?」

The voice of Lily sitting in front of me seemed to be in high spirits.

「Yeah, Lily is beautiful, you're super cute」

「Fufufu~」

I handled the reins with one hand, while patting the head of Lily with the other.

Thinking over it, I sure have become good at horse-riding. After all I could talk and pat while making Merry run.

Otherwise, Merry might have recognized me as the master, ever since the date with Fiona, I had been increasing the sense of unity by pouring black magical energy too.

「Umm.....Then what shall we do, Kurono-san?」

「Let's see, it's quite irritating for have someone stalking us, so I want them make their move fast. How about we invite them by showing our defencelessness tonight?」

.

.

.

And it reached to this terrible scene.

「Haven't you exterminated them.....」

The smell of roasting flesh and blood reached my nose. Although I have gotten used to it, but I just can't take a rest.

My mind is not rekt to the extent to peacefully sleeping in the middle of this massacre scene filled with hands, legs and freshly severed heads. No, the time I got used to people's death is the fact that my head is rekt.

「I'm sorry, it just happened inadvertently, right Lily-san?」

「Right~」

The duo of fairy and witch didn't show any sign of remorse, but because I also used Full Burst so I can't complain about them.

「And we also took one person as prisoner, isn't this for the good」

「A prisoner, we took.....」

With complicated feelings I look at the skin-headed man shivering with his face turned pale.

He seemed to have lost all his fighting strength, but for just in case I have bind him up with Anchor Hand made from 『Black Hair Curse 「Coffin」 』

「Master—Urgh!」 The maid with sense of wariness maxed out would use her prideful black hair wires to bite into the five limbs of the opponent and mince them, only if the opponent showed some strange movements.

Of course, seeing this state, I totally doubt it would happen.

No, the thing more concerning to me is that I remember this man.

「Hey do you remember about me?」

「ugh.....Y-Yes」

He even used formal language, looks like he is seriously freaked out.

In the back alley of Spada slums, he had enough spirits to bluff even after his sword was broken, but it could only be said as natural to be freaked out after seeing so many of his comrades die in a flashy manner.

「It's truly unfortunate, that you have degraded down to being a bandit」

Though I said that, but I knew that there was no way he would return to being a decent adventurer just by my words.

But, it's my true feelings that I feel disappointed in him.

「W-wait, I'm not a bandit or something, after that I seriously become an adventurer! Just like you said, a decent adventurer!」

「Stop, I don't want to hear you begging」

I'm not a kind person to the extent of believing his words.

However I don't have the hobby of playing with others' lives like those apostles, I intend to hand them over to the Isckia Guild or vigilante corps.

Before that, I wanted to hear the information about the bandits, but looking at his current state it seems impossible. It's better to make him faint——

「Wait Kurono, this man is saying the truth」

「Lily?」

But, a lifeboat for this man appeared from an unexpected place. She had been in the child form but currently Lily said the words fluently and forced her way in between me and the man.

「F-fairy-san! Please, save me! After getting saved by you, I've been praying the fairy goddess every night! I also don't lay my hand on children, please, save, save me!!」

「Do you know him?」

Looking at the shouting and crying man with a sidelong glance, I asked Lily.

「When I went on Slime subjugation quest, I had saved him along the way」

「So it's something like that」

That is one great coincidence. Recently I have been feeling lot of time that this world is small.

「Hey you, calm down, it's fine, I won't kill you」

「*weep*.....T-t-thank you, thank you very much Fairy-san.....」

The adult man lowers his head towards a small girl, or rather the scene of him grovelling in prostrating form is quite surreal.

「The we will ask you some questions, it's fine to say slowly, but answer honestly, okay?」

「*weep* Y-y-yess」

So she will start the interrogation at this point, seriously I can't make light of adult Lily.

Lily turned back in an instant and winked as if saying here you go. She's cute as always, err nothing, I meant now I can get the info from this man.

「Then name yourself first, and show your Guild Card if you're truly an adventurer」

「I-I'm Zack, a poor adventurer from the countryside of Spada. The Guild Card is on my neck」

There surely is a chain on his neck, as for the end of it is within the leather armour so I can't see what is attached to it.

I wind the black hair wire, officially a think 『Anchor Hand』 and take out the Guild Card from his bosom while still restraining Zack.

At that moment his face seemed to spasm from fear, but I pretended to not notice it. What, you hate tentacles that much.

「Bronze Plate, eh」

「Heh Heh, this is the limit for someone like me」

I remembered that he was saying he could use Enhancement Magic and Martial Skills as a bluff, so it must be truth that he doesn't know any of them.

If one can't use any, then reaching up to Rank 3 would be difficult, even more if the person is a normal human.

「I'm Kurono, a member of Rank 3 party 『Element Master』 , did you attack us even after knowing us」

「If I had known you people were the targets, I would've stopped these people with all my strength」

「What do you mean? No, let's go in order, first who are you people?」

「These people were Slave Dealers」

I have come to understand that the existence of slaves is quite a normal thing in this world.

But, one needs to have agreement with some elites to possess slaves, but because I have never entered the upper area of Spada nor went to slave market, so I don't the truth about it.

Of course, I have heard they are forced into labour by being whipped as it is banned according to law. Apparently on the outward at least they don't have a tragic environment to live in.

「Though I say that, they are bandits-like guys. The reason they targeted you is not doubt because of that witch and fairy-san」

Apparently my guess hit the right spot. Truly an shitty talk, making me want to puke.

「Are you the people making riots in Fauren?」

「Bandits of Fuaren? *sigh* Those assholes, as expected this bad name was gaining fame.....most probably you're right, they appeared out of nowhere after 'restocking their commodities' from Fuaren. I was hired as a bodyguard for these people calling them as slave dealers」

「Bodyguard?」

「It's about private contract quests, from the introduction of my friends, I took on this quest as it gave lot of rewards, hence I've been doing a decent job as an adventurer. I also haven't attacked some village and taken girls」

I send a glance to Lily and she opened her mouth to show her approval.

「It's the truth」

「Fairy-san.....Thankz.....」

If Lily says so then it must be the truth, moreover this man doesn't seem to have a high grade magic to deceive telepathy.

If Zack has been just doing his quest and has not been involved in any criminal act, then I can't keep on criticizing him.

Although, after being attacked like this, as the person concerned in 'a fight between fellow adventurers', I can do what I want to do with him, frankly I can kill and still not get accused.

However, I don't hate this man to that extent and also don't want to needlessly spill blood.

Zack's Guild Card also had an accessory imitating the wings of fairies. Most probably he became a believer in god after being saved by Lily.

It might be true that he is praying to the fairy goddess.

「But, if they are truly the bandits of Fauren, then it means you took part in a criminal syndicate as a bodyguard. I don't know how big this sin might be, but if you still want to cooperate with them.....you know what happens, right?」

「Y-Yeah, I resign from the private contract quest right now! I won't feel any regret in giving out information to help the subjugation of bandit group」

Upon hearing those words I released Zack from the restraints.

Like this, Zack is no longer a bodyguard, but a freelance adventurer.

If he somehow makes the Guild recognize that he was made to forcibly take on the quest and has not done a single criminal act, then his punishment would be really light.

Of course, if he showed any suspicious activity currently, I will surely plunge all the bullets into him.

「I-I'm saved.....」

After being freed from the wires Zack took a deep breath, he must've been in a state of tension as I held the line for his life-and-death.

Thinking this is a daily occurrence for adventurers, I won't have any sympathy.

「Now then, as we have become cleared up about each other's positions, how about you tell us in details about the bandits of Fauren, aka the Slave Dealers who hired you」

CHAPTER 248

LET'S GO BODYGUARDS, WAKE UP ADVENTURERS

The bodyguard Ludora may look haggard like a sick person, but looking at him stepping down the stairs without staggering it is understandable that he is a healthy person.

He stepped down soundlessly on the gloomy stairway reaching the cellar of the mansion the bandits aka slave dealers were residing.

Until Ludora knocked the door of cellar there was no one who noticed his approach.

Ludora sensed the presence of the person frantically heading towards him even from across the door.

「Teach, got some work?」

The person who came out was the one leading this bandit group, Robert.

Seeing his half-naked sweaty body there wouldn't be a need to think what he might've been doing till now.

No, even without thinking one would think obscene things just by hearing the coquettish voice of girls and bellows of men.

A normal man would not only react mentally but also physically because of the faint sweet smell——the scent of aphrodisiac made from mucus of Morjura.

However Ludora didn't seem affected by it in the least and spoke with a vacant look and indifference.

「There are people heading here, prepare to run away」

Robert's face flickered upon hearing those words, but maintaining his reasoning, he asked for the details.

「Are the Chivalric Order of Fuaren or Spada on the move?」

「No, there are three of them. Adventurers, probably」

Robert guessed it wasn't the worst scenario and heaved a sigh of relief.

「Is there a need to run against just three people?」

「If it is a Party above Rank 4 then I will at most only be able to stall them」

More than that, the group sent along with Zack hadn't returned, the possibility of them being arrested was quite high.

If the people who defeated those many people were the three heading towards here, then it would mean they are not normal people.

「So just in case, eh?」

Robert understood Ludora's meaning behind the words. In their occupation running away power is essential, the people who couldn't see through the right moment to run away had already disappeared in the public on the floor of guillotine.

「Understood we will prepare to run away, as for Teachs'——」

「Galdan already left, I will also head there now. The enemy is nearing through the back side, if we fight near the suspension bridge, you people will get enough time to make an escape for it」

「Then we will from the front side. Heh heh, leaving it all to you, teach」

Ludora nodded silently and rushed up the stairs.

.
.
.

The bandit group—okay they call themselves as slave dealers, but it should be alright calling them bandit group, right. Their hideout was a mansion located in the mountains somewhat far from Isckia Village,

After hearing most of the information from Zack we headed towards that hideout.

Why we were doing this sort of thing? The answer is simple, we will subjugate the other bandits left.

Incidentally we released Zack right at that spot, Lily said it would be alright so I don't think he would come back for revenge.

I pray for him to still move on the way of decent adventurer.

「What will you do about Greed Gore?」

Fiona asked while sitting on the horse running parallel in this dark night.

「Will take a look after this」

According to the eyewitness reports the possibility of it not being near anymore is more. Hence, nothing will change if we made haste for a day or two.

「Well from the start we had planned to hunt the monsters in Isckia Hills if we didn't find it to rake in money, and this bandits subjugation seems to give more money」

「You're right, the reward on that murderer was also quite a big amount」

Well for the current plan of 『Element Master』 for subjugating bandits is approved by all, it's definitely not like my sense of justice exploded and I am forcibly taking them.

There are various reasons for us to take on this subjugation. One, we can easily topple the enemies by ourselves. Two, the students from the Academy are captured. Three, just like I said before this way we will rake in more money.

Regarding the first reason, according to Zack, three people were hired as bodyguards. One of them is a really skilled swordsman while the other is a rank 3 golem.

The other bandits are normal humans without any magic or Martial Skill, just like the people we killed before.

If we just be careful of that swordsman bodyguard, it is easy to exterminate the bandit group.

Second reason, about the kidnapped students, this is not an information that I can feign not hearing.

The little sister Wil was worrying about, Third Princess of Spada Charlotte Tristan Spada had headed out to Fauren to subjugate the bandits. Fortunately the possibility of her being captured is zero.

From the information on the looks of girls I heard from the Zack, it all seemed unfamiliar to me. In short, the people are one's whom I have never met.

Just, after knowing some fellow students have been abducted, I can't possibly ignore it.

The third, just as I said before to Fiona, is about money. As we didn't encounter our main objective, Greed Gore, so we changed the plan as there wasn't much problem in it.

The danger level of 『Isckia Hills』 is Rank 3, even if we overhunt the monsters living there, like Centaur or Silent Sheep, the amount we will get for a free quest would not be big enough.

Moreover there is also a fourth reason which I haven't told anyone about.

「I will make them regret making a move on Fiona and Lily to the point of death」

「You're speaking the reason, Kurono-san」

Yeah, well, it's somewhat a personal grudge.

But, upon being told that from the person itself it's quite embarrassing.

「Kurono-san」

「What?」

「To the point of death, rather means truly dying right」

No, we look there, we can take some of them as prisoners, right,

「The act of robbery and choosing to be a bandit is a capital crime in all countries. It will lessen the labour for Knights if we kill them before」

I got scared of Fiona speaking those words easily, but, this might be the common for this world.

Apparently in the Edo period people were beheaded even if they stole some coins, well the weight of penalty changes per era and country.

「You're right, if it was needed to capture them all alive or get punished for homicide, then I wouldn't have gone for their subjugation」

「Eh, did Kurono-san's world had a system of getting accused of crimes if you killed a bandit?」

To be precise, there are no people called bandits there.....well, if one killed a robber and didn't gave proof of legitimate self-defence, then good-bye, live in prison it would be.

「Yeah, something like that」

「I see.....you're world is quite hard to live in」

Fiona seemed seriously shocked, maybe she took a culture shock for something utterly useless.

Although this talk has made lots of misunderstandings, but it will be fine after I tell her about the way of living on Earth.

「We're almost at the suspension bridge of back side」

We have the advantage of surprise attack, so there is no reason to not make use of it but enter boldly from the front area.

Of course we also are attacking due to some sudden developments, hence we don't have all the equipments for making do against the enemies.

「Wake up Lily, we're getting off the horse」

It is really narrow to move on along with horse, to the point that if one loses their footing, the person should be ready for a headfirst strike on the bottom of cliff.

Well it is a back way, so it's quite natural.

「Hm, Ugh?」

I wake up dozing off Lily in front of me with a shake.

It is midnight currently, in other words the resting time for this child-form Lily.

However we are going to head into the hideout of bandits now, so I've got no choice but become the demon here and wake her up.

「Hey, just wake up」

「*yawn*」

I get off the horse while holding the still-dreaming-with-half-open-eyes Lily.

She's somewhat standing on her feet, but she seems unsteady on her feet so is coiling around my leg. It's just too worrisome.

「Shall I give her the Waking-up Potion?」

Fiona took out a single bottle from her hat as if she can't let Lily's actions go unnoticed.

「Is the one Simon drank.....?」

「Yes」

It's witch-like to make drugs, but, seeing Fiona's confident expression I can't help but feel uneasy, just why?

「Here you go, Lily-san, you'll wake up in just one mouthful of it」

「Hm, yeeessshhh」

Not knowing my uneasy feeling, Lily took the shady ominous potion from Fiona, and downed it from her small mouth——

「Creeeeeeeppppppppyyyyyyyyyy!!」

「L-Lily!？」

Lily spewed out the potion with teary eyes, looks like my uneasiness hit the right mark.

「Fiona! You trying to kill me!!」

「Good morning, Lily-san」

Fiona said nonchalantly. I didn't feel any ill intent in that.

「Isn't there something you should say to me?」

Lily stared while wiping her mouth. Pretty intense stare that is.

「Kurono-san was getting troubled, so I thought to wake you up fast」

Eh, so you gonna shove the responsibility of that to me!

「Argh.....Can't be helped」

And even you are agreeing to it!!

「Ah, What! Well you seem awake now」

「Yeah, thanks to you」

“It would've been great if your adult version still kept on sleeping” is something that I won't say.

「But is that seriously so much bad?」

「Stop Kurono, if you do that you will die」

No, I haven't said that I will drink it, yet.

「You're rude, I've adjusted the ingredients so one don't die」

So you mean that, that damn potion has ingredients that would kill anyone if not adjusted!?

That muddy red liquid seeming like blood just doesn't seem tasty.

But, it seriously intrigues me.....won't a single mouthful.....be fine?

「Kurono.....」

I took a new waking up potion from Fiona, purely out of curiosity, but Lily sends a gaze, just like a mom sends to her son going on a battlefield, to me.

D-Does this thing need that much of determination.....no, don't get scared, it will be fine if it's just one mouthful, heave-ho, here I go!

I took the bottle of potion and——

CHAPTER 249

MAN OF STEEL

The golem bodyguard Galdan heard the direction of movements of the approaching enemies from Ludora and dashed out of the mansion with his favorite mace and tower shield in hands.

「sigh, those brats from Spada had no resistance against us. This time I will make you entertain me!!」

Ever since taking up on this quest Galdan had not met strong enemies resulting in his displeasure accumulating. Hence this time he makes haste on his way to fight against some strong enemies.

The one-eyed golem ran past the pitch dark night street whilst making sounds of footsteps similar to Doltos. Contrary to his appearance he was quite fast.

Golems' body was fundamentally of a barrel with arms and legs. They were not classified as genuine living beings but magic beings like fairies and skeleton.

However, golems having been made from rocks or metals were pretty much slow as suggested their appearance. Hence, seeing Galdan run so nimbly would only mean that either he had been made from a really light material or had been blessed with great physical ability.

「Uh oh, err, I think that it is needed to cross this bridge to get near the mansion from back side, in that case——」

He got out of the woodland path, in front of a suspension bridge on the cliff with a mountain stream flowing, several tens of meters below.

To get into the mansion from the back it was inevitable to cross this suspension bridge, of course, it won't be the same if the intruders had a Pegasus with them.

「——I just need to wait here!」

He laughed loudly as if wanting to say what a great idea.

Although it was simple, but for a fight-loving idiot like Galdan, having a place to always meet enemies can only be considered as a advantageous position given by luck.

Galdan landed on the suspension bridge with all his power. Looking at the shaking and listening to the creaking sounds of bridge, it can be understood that his body was made by same materials as other golems, hence had the same weight.

That dull silver like lustre wasn't some sort of plating, but it was iron. He was an iron golem with even the core made from steel.

The suspension bridge seemed to somehow bear that super-heavy golem's weight. It could be perceived that it was tougher than what it seemed like, however, there wouldn't be a person who would cross the bridge along with him.

Whilst shaking the bridge Galdan crossed the bridge with his steel body and sat down on the ground, waiting for the enemies to make an appearance.

If he just sat silently without moving, some sort of intimidating air would've been emitted, but he was not good at being silent so was playing around with the mace and tower shield, in short he wasn't calm.

Fortunately that boring time came to an end quite fast.

「Heh heh, there ya come」

The red-shining one-eye jolted from delight.

Galdan's eyes shining like a lamp caught the sight of two people running at him from the opposite side of dark night street.

The people were accompanied by some sort of light orbs, maybe some sort of new type of torch, hence they were easily visible even from a distance.

Each other were now just several ten of meters away, even a human without night-vision eyes would be able to see him, same with Galdan, who on the other hand, has night-vision eyes.

「I don't know who you are, where you are from and neither do I care. I'm the strongest golem knight of Spada, Master Galdan, come at m——」

Galdan named himself while shaking the Speaker due to the maximum volume, but before finishing he sensed an attack, and held up the tower shield,

「Gaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhh!？」

He was about to hold up the tower shield when the attack of enemy heavily hit his steel body.

However, Galdan didn't fall down.

He didn't know what sort of magi or weapon he was attacked with, but he did know that countless bead-shaped hard things were fired into his body.

Along with the fact that this attack won't pierce his body and neither will break it.

「Bastard! Don't you go on attacking when a person's givin' out their name!!」

He fixed his bent posture and bellowed.

At that time, the two people had already neared enough to see their faces.

It turned out to be a pair of human man and woman, no, looking more closely, that light wasn't a new type of torch but a small girl.

The man was black haired with red and black eyes equipped with an armour, the woman was wearing witch clothes, the ones quite rare now-a-days. Both of them were humans.

One can get the idea that their party of two was perfectly balance with a Martial Skill-user vanguard and a Magic-user rearguard. However, the reason for that little loli to be with them was quite uncertain.

Galdan raised a question mark above his head whilst getting angry. Moments later he guessed they must be a family party taking their kid along, and took on the fighting stance.

「It is more hard than I thought」

「It must be a natural armour knight」 [1]

「It's pretty troublesome opponent」

The three gave out their impression care freely in front of fully throttled Galdan, in the end he snapped.

「Shitheads! Don't ya ignore me!! Why the fuck are you parents and child talking friendly!!」

Galdan shouted while swinging the mace.

However, only his voice echoed through the mountain forest, and the silence of night again came back.

After some seconds of silence,

「I see, well we can look like that」

「Eh, Kurono-san, in that case I will be——」

「Arrrrghh ARRRRGGGHHH! Don't say that, Fiona! I won't forgive you if you say it. Waking up potion it the most I can forgive, this exceeds that!!」

Apparently man's name was Kurono and witch's name Fiona, but Galdan couldn't care less about it, or rather he had bad memory power as well as he was burning with anger, hence there was no way he would remember their names.

「D-D-Don't you fuck around! Come at me you shithead bastard!!」

「Sorry, I'm in a hurry——」

In the next instant a reply came from the man in armour, Kurono, at the same time Galdan realized that Kurono's hand held an unfamiliar weapon.

At a glance it seemed like a crossbow, but it didn't had the parts for firing an arrow, rather it was just two iron cylinders lined up parallel with a hole in both of them.

Galdan guessed that it might be some sort of magic item which attacks from those cylinders, but

(Huh! You gotta be kidding me if you think that toy can even hurt me!)

He didn't seemed warned at all.

「——so not got time for that」

Immediately after, he regretted making light of it.

Bang!

As expected an attack magic came out of the cylinders along with a thunderous detonation sound.

But, he couldn't get what attribute it was, he just knew that it was something hard and it hit his body,

「Gahaaahahahaha!」

And by the time he realized it, his prideful big body was flying.

Galdan fell face-up on the suspension bridge with a *bam* sound. He almost let go of his mace and shield, but somehow endured it.

(Wh-What was that just now.....my steel body.....)

Looking at his chest, there was a circle-shaped crack in there as if a nail was hammered in.

Golem's special characteristic was that they don't have a sense of pain, but upon taking a heavy damage their body forcibly becomes numb.

(Kuh, this scared shit out of me, if I took in some more shots my body will break)

However, it wasn't lethal.

Galdan thought that he might not be able to use an attack this powerful always, and tried to persuade himself.

「Haaaaaah! That worked pretty good human!! But, that level of stuff won't be able to defeat me——huh?」

Galdan stood up whilst shouting, however the three people that should've been there disappeared.

「W-Where the fuck you go!?!」

He looked left-right but there was no one, as if those three were just some illusions.

Galdan felt like he was made fun by a fox monster which can use witchcraft to deceive people since time immemorial, but suddenly he noticed a shining something in the upper part of his vision.

「They're flyin!!」 [2]

Looking above he saw the figure of a young girl with rainbow-coloured two pair of wings, shouldering the armour man and witch and flying leisurely.

The trick behind that was quite obvious if one thinks, but, thinking was something impossible for Galdan.

(What is that, the brat from before? Fairy? I've never of a fairy that big, no, why the fuck she got big——)

Galdan was just able to absentmindedly gaze the three flying in air without being able to do anything.

However his carelessness was lethal. Galdan shouldn't have forgotten that his opponent was also a witch who could use long distance magic.

「—يـ خ ترق ال رمح ال لهب ث لاثاء—Ignis Kris Sagitta」

Around the time Galdan understood the intention of Witch with staff in hand, everything was too late.

Against the approaching blazing red tornado of flames, Galdan could only hold up his tower shield.

Galdan having tough body was able to somehow hold up in between the incandescent tempest created by the witch.

Galdan was an ability-user and also an iron golem having impregnable defence, hence he was able to somehow or other hold up one attack of a high grade offensive magic.

However, the suspension made from weak trees and rope couldn't possibly still work as a bridge after getting engulfed in the whirlpool of flames.

In short, it fell.

「Ah——」

The ropes holding the burned off, Galdan let out a idiotic voice and after the small moment he felt that soft hovering feeling,

「
AAAAaaaaAAAAAaaaaaaaaaaaaAAAAAAaaaaaaAAAAAaaaaaaAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAA!!」

Along with the wreckage of burning bridge, he plunged into the mountain stream head first.

Surely to the three flying in air, it might've seemed like a criminal falling into hell.

Galdan saw the figure of fairy flying in sky while shining like a star, and disappeared in the mountain stream.

CHAPTER 250

THE THIRD BODYGUARD

Lily landed on ground while holding me and Fiona.

My heart was actually beating like hell from the fear of falling down, but as expected of Lily in true form, she got some strong horsepower to even fly holding two humans——or so we thought, but along the way Fiona was about to fall, so two people might be heavy for her, apparently. [1]

It's dangerous so I need to be more careful the next time.

Thinking it, the last time I had Lily help me fly along with her would be when I took the private quest of taking that treasure sword in the nest of Garuda.

So it's already been four months since then. Now it is a nostalgic memory of mine.

「That golem called Galdan was same as we had heard」

According to Zack, the golem bodyguard Galdan was hot-blooded, would not hear the persuasion, cannot use Martial Skills, but only has lot of power and is tough due to his race's characteristic.

Moreover from the one act before, it was proved his character sketch was correct.

「If we fought fair-and-square it would've taken our time」

He was tough to the point that he only bent on taking on my bullet arts, if I had to defeat him then it was surely needed to attack him again and again.

「It's good we were able to get past easily」

The reason we paid no heed to the golem and went on our way was truly because there was a suspension bridge present for our convenience.

The time I saw that suspension bridge I thought 'This Bridge needs to go down'.

Well that golem was also an hired adventurer so I didn't want to kill him. The tough him will hold on a free fall of several tens of metres, perhaps, surely, probably.

No, it would be better to say 「he won't be saved from that height」 .

Either way he would've taken lot of damage and wouldn't come back any sooner.

「Well the gun also displayed its power, it was a beneficial fight」

I say coolly, but in truth I had never thought Simon's gun would have this much of power.

I had thought it would give an enhance effect just like 『Black Ballista Replica』 , never had I thought it would send that lump of steel flying.

If I shoot using the exclusive bullets then it is possible to pulverize the armour knights of Crusaders along with their tower shields.

However Simon had made every bullet himself, so it doesn't seem plausible to prepare them in large quantity.

I will never forgive the fact that Simon was made to drink Fiona's terrifying idiosyncratic waking up potion——Of course, I also swear to never drink it ever again.

If I keep on drinking that, then let alone my eyes something different would end up being awakened.....no, I won't think anymore.

「Let's make haste」

Like that, we again run on the woodland path.

We are not far from our destination, but we are in a hurry for a reason.

「However, just how did those guys sensed our approach?」

The fact that Galdan was waiting for us at the suspension bridge from before means that the bandit side already knew of our approach.

They let a single bodyguard handle it, of course there is also a possibility he came on his own accord, but the worrisome thing is that bandits should not have escaped after finding our raid.

「We haven't been caught in a trap and there was no barrier for detection」

I recalled the light barrier on the castle walls of Daedalus, that barrier was not for detection but defence from intruders.

The barriers for detection, in case of high-grade ones, won't let the intruder feel anything even if they were sensed by the barrier.

However, judging from the level of this bandit group there's no way they would have a magic item or a mage to deploy a barrier of that high-grade.

「There might have been a lookout guard, probably a Servant」

「You're right」

The probability of Lily's words is the most high, after all looking at things happening with one's own eyes more reliable.

If the one on the lookout guard was someone from those bandits, I would've sensed them from their presences, however there was nothing like that.

If the one on lookout guard was a Servant suitable for defence, for instance a bird-shaped one, then because they don't have any hostility and murderous impulse hence it is hard for me to sense them.

After all, the effectiveness of Servants, though not something of high-grade, has already been proved in Alsace Village. Just by sending one or two Vindol the detection area increased lot more.

Rather than using a high-grade barrier, it's more plausible that they used Servant for lookout.

Either way, if the bandits ran on us our hard work would go in vain, and if they even took the female students with them there would no chance to save them. I seriously don't want the situation to reach that point.

Unfortunately, most of the girls abducted by bandits have already been sent to the Slave Dealer boss.

The girls left in mansion count up to several numbers and are being used as way of amusement for those bastard bandits. Truly a gross thing.

The situation has already got out of hand, but that's also why there is a need to save them as fast as possible.

「Oh I see, so that is their hideout」

After running for about five minutes from the suspension bridge, finally do we see the outer appearance of a mansion on the other side of the woods.

Although this hideout is quite a splendid mansion for some bastards, but considering it is of some wealthy slave dealer, it is possible.

There was light in there, only silence could be sensed from that mansion in this dark night.

It is plausible to think they ran off, in that case I need to hurry up——or so I thought, but I suddenly push on the immediate break and stop in my tracks.

Lily and Fiona also stopped without me telling them.

Yeah, we have already sensed,

「Come out」

That there is an enemy in wait for us.

「Hmm, you're quite excellent adventurers」

A voice of man replies to my question.

One shadow of a person slowly came out from the shade of the tree.

I send my gaze on left and right, but no other person except this man could be seen, there is not even other presences.

The fact that he appeared alone means,

「A bodyguard, eh. Were you ordered as a rear guard?」

「Indeed, I won't let any of you a step forward from here——is something I want to say, but it looks impossible for me alone to stop all of you」

Lily's Oracle Field light shined upon the walking man and his figure appears within the darkness.

He had long dull golden hair tied in a knot behind his neck, lightless stagnant blue eyes, and a too skinny face and body. Although he might've had a good face and body, but currently he gives off the feeling of a patient suffering from incurable disease.

His body is haggard from top to bottom and is wearing a black coat, he looks just like the Undead appearing in 『Revival Catacomb』, in short, his appearance is eerie.

「In that case, give up on the quest. Your employer is a criminal, if you keep on supporting him, you will also be accused」

Against Galdan we forced our way through without any negotiations, but it doesn't seem effective against this man.

If believing Zack's words, this man Ludora is the strongest bodyguard with power above Rank 4 people.

If we can negotiate then it is for the best.

「I know that from the start, even so let me say, I refuse」

「Why?」

「My wish is to exchange blades with strong people, hence your persuasion is useless」

I see, so he is a battle junkie.

His behavioural conduct is exceedingly simple, but because of that it is troublesome. We can't avoid fighting.

「If you want to go after my employers then go right now, however, I want at least one person to remain here」

Ludora grabbed the scabbard of that katana-like sword hanging from his waist with his left hand, and reached the hilt with his right hand.

Ludora slowly started releasing bloodlust after taking a brilliant Iai pose, even a inexperienced like me can tell that his Iai pose is same as pros.

Maybe this is a feeling one would get if confronting a true samurai. A feeling of high tension.

「Lily, Fiona go on ahead」

「Disagreed」

「It's safe and certain if we three fight together」

They refused me with an immediate reply.....

「No, hurry up or those bandits will get away」

「Then let Lily-san go」

「Fiona you go」

「Our top priority is their rescue. Lily, Fiona you both go together, finish it up fast and return」

The opponent is quite a powerful person, but if he's not on apostle level I have confidence in not getting insta-killed, no, speaking more positively I have confidence in my toughness.

「.....Understood」

「Don't do anything reckless, Kurono」

They agreed although reluctantly. Well now it's all good after getting a consensus.

Lily changed into her young girl form and Fiona used her movement-type Martial Skill and went on to chase after the bandits in high speed.

「I made you wait a bit」

Against Ludora who still is in Iai pose, I took out the 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」 』 from the Shadow Gate and get in the stance.

「Don't worry. Let me name myself first. I'm Ludora」

“I know that from before” is something which I won't say.

「I'm Kurono」

Here it is fine with just naming myself.

I'm also a man, hence I have got the manners for times like this.

「Then Kurono, come, let's fight」

CHAPTER 251

BLACK MAGICIAN VS. SAMURAI

The moment the young man in black armour and helmet, Kurono, took out a long hatchet from his own shadow and took on the stance a chill ran up Ludora's spine—

(Wonderful, to actually meet some this able master of swordmanship)

At the same time, he also felt delight.

The hatchet in Kurono's hand had a large jet black sword blade with ominous deep crimson lines shining like veins, and the weapon is always covered in a sinister dark red aura.

Even the girl they captured from village would be able to see that this weapon was a 「Cursed Weapon」 .

Anyone would call it 「cursed」 even in a single glance and would sense the strong grudge hidden in it, in other words this weapon would be in the top ranks among countless cursed weapons.

(And he is controlling the curse completely)

Kurono was still staring at Ludora with his red and black eyes still having the light of consciousness, even while in stance.

Ludora had fought against many people with Cursed Weapons, but it's the first time he was fighting against one who has maintained his sanity even while using Cursed Weapons.

Moreover a person controlling a Cursed Weapon with that much strong grudge.

He understood that the blade had sucked lots of blood not just of ten or twenty people.

After all, he was also the same.

(My favourite katana 『Bloodsucking Princess 「Scarlet Dye」 』 won't lose in the amount of blood sucked)

Ludora held back the urge to smile,

(Don't end this match in just one sword)

And without making a sound, drew out his sword.

「AkaNagi」 [1]

In an instant, a shining white blade——no, a sword blood dyed scarlet came out of the scabbard.

「!？」

A tinge of surprise flashed upon Kurono's face.

That reaction could be said normal. It was obvious that even with the length of katana hanging on Ludora's waist, it won't reach a distance of several meters.

However, the blade kept on extending reaching towards Kurono's body.

(This single stroke uses the blood sucked till now and nullifies the distance between the opponent. Now how will you respond to it, Kurono)

People with confidence in their speed would evade it, the one with confidence in their toughness would defend it, and those without much ability would get their head cut in top and bottom without exception.

Against such an attack, Kurono,

「AkaNagi」

The colour of blade swung from hatchet was similar scarlet red.

Thus, that Martial Skill with same pronunciation, attacked by constructing a blade by using the blood sucked.

Two crimson sword strikes intersected.

A metal sound rang out making one think they weren't made from blood, and both turned in red mist disappearing in the black of the night.

「I never thought that some can use the same skill as me」

(So he got surprised for that, Pfft, interesting, this man——)

Ludora saw Kurono voicing out words of admiration, and as he expected, no, even more than that he was convinced that,

(Surely is worth fighting against seriously)

He would show his true power, which he had shown just against top rank monsters, against this young curse-weapon wielder.

In other words, he would show his true form to him.

「Kurono, let me tell you to not misunderstand」

Ludora's senses explosively increased in an instant.

The vision which wasn't able to see more than some meters now saw all the surroundings as easily as looking under the shine of sunlight in day.

His ears which only picked up the sound of blood blades breaking, now became so sharp that they even picked up the sounds of Kurono's heartbeat.

His olfaction could even distinguish between the faint smell of earth and grass, his sense of touch could now clearly feel the flow of wind, and his sixth sense which could perceive the blood, magical energy and various other things invisible through eyes.

That feeling was like the world just expanded immediately, however, to Kurono only the outward changes were perceivable rather than the inner changes.

The eyeballs with blue pupil congested with blood and were dyed in red, a part of teeth metamorphosed into like fangs of beast people.

On Pandora with various races living, Ludora transformation wasn't something much different from humans, but that is why, is it was more conspicuous to humans.

Kurono immediately understood what the true form Ludora was.

「My class is Swordsman, no, I use katana so it should be 『Samurai』 . Hence, my attacks are all from this one sword, I can't use magic——」

Why would he deliberately say that?

These words were like saying an elf which excels in magical energy fights just by using sword.

Ludora's race had enough magical energy to be lined up against Elves.

「——In other words, I will use all the magical energy of Vampires into using Martial Skills」

.

.

.

「Vampire, eh」

I have seen various races till now, but seeing a Vampire is a first for me.

The red eyeballs with congested blood, and two fangs peeking out from the mouth, indeed look like that of a vampire.

However the thing I need to be more cautious to is that the Vampire race has very powerful physical ability.

Even that haggard patient-like body has physical strength easily surpassing humans, moreover among the characteristics of vampire, the most excellent status is their magical energy.

Vampire's high-levelled magical energy rivalling that of Elves is the cause they are mostly of Mage Class, however at the same time, they even have their physical power. Looking at it comprehensively, they are more trouble to fight against Elf mages.

Although Vampires have that strong abilities, but maybe this could be called nature's dispensation that their population is in minority, hence they are rarely seen even in cities.

Thus for me to meet one in a place like this can only be said bad luck to me.

「Here I come」

However, even if the opponent is Vampire I have got no intention to run away, the other party also doesn't seem to let me off.

Ludora was already rushing at me with unsheathed red sword blade katana held by both hands.

「KuroNagi!」

His rush was fast enough to surpass the speed of that insane Joto.

Hence it would be faster to intercept him with my hatchet rather than Bullet Arts or Sword Arts, or rather that was the only choice I had.

「Scarlet Slash」

Ludora's katana also had an aura same as the hatchet, so to speak it was more like clad in blood mist like thing, hence revealing a bright red colour. No matter how you see it, no can call it a normal weapon.

It might even be a Cursed Weapon, in that case, the difference in ability of our both weapons isn't that much.

In that case the factor for victory or defeat will be the users' ability——

SFX: GaakkkKKkiiiiInnnNN!

And the black and red blades repelled each other while scattering sparks and making a shrill sound resound.

「Guh!」

Rather than strong it might be good to say heavy.

The attack sent out by the slender blade rivalled the power of my bastard sword-like big hatchet.

Despite that it still seems like a Japanese sword, though with more sharpness and speed.

I will definitely lose in a pure swordsmanship battle, but the point I can win in is.....power, eh.

Vampire have physical power surpassing that of humans, but, that is the same for me, my body has already ceased being human.

「Haaaa!」

Just a moment after attacking with Martial Skills, both of us still maintained their stances, and started the close-blade-combat.

「Too fast!」

The black blade strikes and red blade strikes both made several light tracks in an instant, incidentally scattering sparks and magical energy.

Based on bodily sensation it felt like eternity, but in truth not even ten seconds had passed. There was one thing though which I immediately understood in the match of continuous offense and defence, that I can't win against with just sword.

It would've been good if he slash sent out by me were evaded, but they were actually warded off by the katana at the critical point.

I don't have enough power to overcome this logical technique.

I probably am above in pure physical strength, albeit by narrow margin, however, Ludora has enough swordsmanship ability to surpass that narrow margin.

And more than anything, the blade has brushed off various dangerous parts of my body.

If I was still wearing Apprentice Robe, although it wouldn't be a fatal one, I would've been forced to lose quite an amount of blood. Thanks to wearing armour as Greed Gore's countermeasure that I am able to still remain unhurt.

As expected of a sword-user Vampire, it won't be distant future when I get an attack powerful enough to break through my armour.

However this is not only a match of swordsmanship, a match is not just won by sword-using ability.

「Anchor Hand」

Even while holding the hilt with hands, the other cursed weapon, no a guard——「I'm a maid desu~」, no a maid affixed on my hand created several wires similar to black hair from the back of hand. I control them to entangle Ludora.

In this super-fast offense and defence match, if I hadn't used the effect of this powerful maid gloves around my hand, I wouldn't have been able to have enough thought and concentration to swing the hatchet and at the same time use magic too.

「Mmh!？」

Ludora's reaction was fast, that may either be because of pure reflexes or sixth sense, or maybe because of both. Even before the black hair curse attacked him, he had already jumped back by one step and got out its range.

However he didn't just back off, but even brandished the katana horizontally to prevent my movements.

「Aka Nagi」

From out the range he deployed the Martial Skill to bisect me in two.

「Shield」

However, the black magical energy fibre making the shield has already been deployed in front of me to protect my body. On top of that, if I had the little time Ludora takes to deploy Martial Skill, I can again defend without swinging the hatchet.

The black shield covering my body with it's over 2 meters size starts knitting black hair wires and by the time they are constructed, the blood blade I had seen before reaches me.

The blood blade cuts off the hard magical fibres, but it stops halfway without being able to cut it into two parts.

The Martial Skills was finished and the red katana vanished, similarly the Shield also started dispersing from the cut up part.

「It may be great if I also name my Class」

However, it's enough time to prepare for counterattack now that I've stopped this attack.

My figure might be again visible to Ludora now that the Shield covering me has gone.

「I'm not a swordsman——」

The 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 「Kubidan」 』 was not in my hand, but rather in my left was the 『Wrath-Pun's Right Arm』 and in my right hand was a completely loaded 『Gun』 .

Also there were a belt of thousands of magic bullets and ten blackened swords rising from my rear like wings.[2]

「——I'm a Black Magician」

Come on now Vampire Samurai, take on my Full Burst!

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

1. Aka used by Ludora is different Kanji while Kurono's is different Kanji. HOWEVER both mean the same, more or less. But the one used by Ludora also means scarlet and blood red which Kurono's doesn't mean at all.

Nagi said by Ludora is different from the one Kurono says. Like completely even with the meanings.

2. I can already imagine a scene like that. It is almost like Meng Hao being surrounded by neo demons and Lotus Sword Formation rising from his back!

CHAPTER 252

DEVIL VS. VAMPIRE (1)

He mistook the ability of opponent.

Ludora looked back on his own carelessness as soon as he saw magic manifesting into reality along with the pressure of tremendous magical energy.

He can brag about gaining lots of experience after passing several tens of years, ever since he resolved to live with just the sword.

The people he had killed were uncountable. Among them were even strong foes who were at a higher position than him of that time.

Even after gaining fighting experience from all those years, he had mistook the ability of this young man named Kurono.

(A Black Magician? *chuckle* It's my first time hearing someone calling themselves as Mage Class with that equipment)

Despite that, he had Sword Techniques easily surpassing normal Swordsman, and can also control the curse of weapons. He might look like Berserker, but not a Magician.

However Kurono had already shown using Magic, not Boost Magic learnt by Swordsman Class people as an auxiliary, but an Offensive Magic used to kill opponents.

In his left hand was a machete with red blade burning with black flames. In his right hand was an unusual type of Magic Staff called 『Gun』 .

Countless black bullets and ten black long swords were all facing Ludora, whilst gushing out with magical energy as if wanting to attack immediately.

All this was magic he had never seen before, probably they were Original Magic, but all of them had the same power as the magic used by top-rank Mages. This was a fact he understood acutely with his intuition and skin.

(Good, I accept your challenge, Kurono!)

Like that, the black magic aiming at Ludora was finally fired.

「Bullet Arts: Full Burst」

The countless black bullets moved first.

They were shot at Ludora while making a thunderous noise and flashing with a black lustre different from the darkness of night.

However all of the bullets come at him simultaneously, just like a black wall was approaching him, in other words, there was no way to run.

「Hard Body!」

Since he can't avoid it then the only choice is to block against it.

He used a Defence Martial Skill 『Hard Body』 which hardens the body by cladding the already tough body of Vampire with the refined magical energy within their bodies. Like that Ludora prepared for the attack.

「Fast!」

Of course he won't make a foolish mistake of taking the attack head-on. He started warding off the bullets coming at him at high speeds with his katana while covering his vital spots like head and heart.

Ludora had the confidence to repel all the arrows in a rain of arrows. However, against this barrage with density that arrows and bows can never have, just protecting his vital spots was his limit.

Steel-like bullets graze his shoulder, sides and legs, but thanks to the Martial Skill, he was able to somehow defend himself without taking much damage.

「Pierce, Sword Arts」

In between the time it took bullets to reach Ludora, Kurono started his next attack.

This time, ten swords come flying at him as if shot from a bow.

「Hundred Li Air Walker」 [1]

However the curtain of bullets had already passed through. For Ludora, a samurai, it was easier and reasonable to evade most of attacks because he was not specialized in defence like Knights or Warriors.

He deployed the Movement Martial Skill with the help of his refined magical energy. For an ordinary person it might seem like teleportation.

The Expert-class Martial Skill can easily evade from 10 flying swords, however, Ludora never thought that Kurono's attack was just 'shooting the swords'.

(Homing ability——no, Direct control, eh. Great)

Ludora ran around the forest like a blowing gale, but the swords kept on tailing his back, or forestalling him, all the while making the best use of all ten swords to encircle him.

Whilst making use of his fast movement momentum, Ludora swung his sword against the three swords floating in the air in front of him.

The swords coming at him, aiming at his head, chest and abdomen were lined up in a vertical line.

「Scarlet Slash」

He jumped by kicking the ground lightly, then swung down his katana with the power of Martial Skill.

As expected, ten swords were not Cursed Weapons, they were just enchanted with magical energy, hence upon getting attacked by 『Bloodsucking Princess 「Scarlet Dye」 』 they were bisected while scattering the fragments and black magical energy.

「Too Fast!」

As if they slyly estimated the time of landing, six swords came flying at him, three from the rear and the other three from the left side.

The point of intersection, Ludora, this time dealt with them using pure sword warding off technique and body defence movements.

Though he wasn't able to cut them down, but upon warding them off or repelling them, for an instant the black coating covering the swords gets peeled off, and steel glitters from there.

(So, will they become unusable if I tear off this magical Enchant?)

The only sword he repelled powerfully lost more than half of its magical energy and fell, standing up straight piercing the ground, and didn't move again.

The others swords though don't ignore the law of inertia and immediately turn around upon being evaded, however they do make a revolution and come back at Ludora.

Ludora was somewhat frightened at the swords sticking in trees or ground immediately getting out and again making a comeback.

(This is a troublesome magic, if I don't break them all, I will always be targeted)

He evaded the last sword of the ten swords falling down from overhead aiming at the crown of his head, and before the sword got out of ground he swung the katana and broke the sword.

In less than even a second, other swords he failed to break came flying aiming at him, at that time, he again heard the thunderous sound of bursting of magical energy which he heard before.

「Bullet Arts: Gatling Burst」

The Magic Staff called 『Gun』 flickered black flashes continuously, and Ludora sensed bullets coming at him while gouging out the ground.

(Not just simultaneous fire, but he can also do rapid-fire too)

The consecutively fired bullets looked like a black long line, and with their force and thunderous sound of firing, it seemed like a storm coming at him.

(Defend? No way, there's no other choice than to evade a rapid-fire!)

『Hard Body』 surely defended against simultaneous fired bullets, but because the skill time is short, and it keeps on getting shorter as much attack the body takes and as much coating of magical energy scatters.

Although he might be able to defend first several tens of shots, but after that it is impossible story, this was something he understood immediately. Along with the fact, that even if Vampires have tough bodies, they would surely become disabled upon receiving several tens of hundreds of attacks with this amount of power.

Hence, he chose evasion.

Fortunately, there's more room to evade in this rather than in a simultaneous fire.

Of course the swords left are again moving aiming at him from rear.

He used the fast speed of still-in-effect 『Hundred Li Air Walker』 running around in circle with Kurono as centre to evade the attacks, but

(It would be better to attack myself rather than wait for attack to be interrupted)

When fighting against Mages, it is the most effective tactic to attack after getting past the opponents attack.

Fundamentally, the magic is activated by using chant or ritual as intermediary, hence the outbreak of attack is overwhelmingly slower compared to swinging a sword.

Of course, for compensating the disadvantage a very strong power is present in magic, conversely speaking the more powerful the magic the longer time it takes to activate, hence if the attack misses the risk increases rapidly.

However, that book knowledge was being overthrown right now.

Kurono's first attack was simultaneous fire, if it was a normal Mage, they would need several seconds to chant for the next attack.

However, in no time, ten swords came flying in, moreover they got power to keep on continuing a battle by their homing ability, unless they are completely destroyed.

At the same time, rapid-fire is also used.

Ludora knew that this firing wouldn't continue for long, but he also didn't think that he will be 'out of bullets' in the next ten or twenty seconds.

If a Mage were able to continuously send out offensive magic then the tactic of attacking after their attack finished won't be possible.....for eternity.

Saying it again, it was a mistake on Ludora's part to start evasion after Kurono's first attack, of course, it is a reflection he can do only now, after seeing Kurono's magic.

And, right now, more than reflection, movements for overturning the tables is needed.

(I need to be prepared to eat some of those bullets)

In the meantime he had come to acknowledge that Kurono wasn't an enemy he could win against remaining unhurt, however, he actually wanted to get in bloody fights against strong foes.

Ludora was running in a circle around Kurono, but in a turn, he start heading at him.

His evasion movements were so fast to even created blurry afterimages, hence he evaded most of the bullets, but after all as he was heading head-front the hitting accuracy rate increased.

(As long I can save my head, it will work out somehow or other)

It wasn't like Ludora was completely indifferent about defences. He also was armed with equipments needed for defence.

The black coat worn by him might looked worn-out at a glance, but it is a high grade magic armour made from a magical metal called 『Woven Black Iron』 .

It had defence power enough to take the bullets with high-density head on and still not let them pierce through.

(I just need get around——)

“Like this”, by the time he thought that,

「Black Flames」

The machete in Kurono's left hand slashes and fierce thunderous black flames spread before Ludora's eyes.

In Ludora's 180 degrees of vision, the blazing flames of darkness were reflected, but,
(I can make through it!)

Without any hesitation, he chose to cut through like that.

He threw himself in the black incandescent vortex.

「Gaaaaahhhh!」

The pain of flames tormenting the flesh is an intense pain that most of races won't be able to bear and turn into fire dolls, but with Vampires life force, it is possible to get through it.

These fires had somewhat less firepower to stop Ludora's movements, apparently.

If he gets out of this hell fire coming straight from hell, it won't even be five metres between him and Kurono.

If he moved one more step forward, Kurono will come in the range of his blade.

However, as expected of Ludora, he was able to control his adrenaline-filled heart.

(As expected, he came right now)

He blocked the vision with black flames, and by the time Ludora got out of here, meaning right now, he, Kurono, would've deployed a more powerful attack.

The 『Gun』 held in his right hand was aimed at Ludora, but at some point the rapid-fire had already stopped.

Just the two barrels and deep black muzzle was exposed.

At the same time, Ludora sensed the still-not-broken swords coming at him from behind.

SFX: BaaazzzunnnNN!

A powerful roar and flash burst in front of Ludora.

He had already predicted 'something' would come out from that gun at this point-blank range.

If he knew it from before,

「Gyaaaaah!」

Considering Ludora's ability, it wouldn't be impossible to defend against it.

It was just a distance of five metres from the muzzle, when two bullets were shot from the gun against which Ludora swung his katana accompanied with a loud scream.

Fortunately these bullets didn't have an explosion effect added and were just for piercing through the target.

The bullets flying straight earnestly were captured by Vampire's superhuman reflexes and intuitions and had their direction of movement averted.

Due to the blade being inserted diagonally between the two bullets lined, they glided on the surface of blade and their flying direction changed.

The two bullets should've have hit Ludora's chest, but one grazed his left shoulder and the other grazed his side, due to which some of the 『Woven Black Iron』 Coat and some of his flesh was gouged out, but after some bleeding, it stopped.

The moment after he repelled the bullets, he used the momentum of his swung sword to turn around for countering the swords flying at him from behind.

「Haaaaaahh!」

He cut down all the swords flying at him in just one slash.

It would be lethal to show his back to his opponent, but unless he steps forward the hatchet would not reach him, and also the ultra-high speed rotation done by Ludora

had went past Vampire's movement ability's limits, hence it wasn't enough gap for Kurono launch another attack.

In fact, even as Ludora turned back to front, there was no blade swung by Kurono.

Kurono's stance from the time he shot the bullets hadn't changed, it was still the same L-shaped legs while holding the gun in his extended right hand.

Thus, Ludora launched an attack for killing Kurono.

(I'm going to finish this with my strongest Martial Skill)

Unlike Magic, Martial Skills don't need much time to activate.

Marital Skill like 『Hard Body』 need to be amassed, but it wasn't absolutely necessary that all Martial Skills need to be amassed.

That Martial Skill was something of a sure-kill technique Ludora had learnt after swinging his katana for countless number of times.

The thing needed was just his katana. It doesn't even need long chants, expensive catalysts or even any special ritual.

Hence that attack was the fastest and strongest.

His favourite katana 『Bloodsucking Princess 「Scarlet Dye」 』 finally gushed out with a red eerie aura. It seemed as if responding to Ludora's wish.

In short, that was the Martial Skill which pursued the limits of 'cutting' by katana.

「——Heaven Beheading Scarlet Scintillation」 [2]

The Scarlet Shine Cutting the Heavens. Just as the name suggest, it created a scarlet coloured trajectory in the empty space to cut the enemy into pieces. It was a sure-kill technique.

CHAPTER 253

DEVIL VS. VAMPIRE (2)

Getting out of black magic's close distance attack, he reached to a distance of letting out a sure-kill attack. I had thought from before that he would use a Martial Skill in this situation.

In fact, the Martial Skill deployed by him was more powerful than the 『AkaNagi』. I can see that fact from the amount of magical energy gushing outwards from him katana.

If I took it head on the 『Shield』 would be bisected, and even if I defend using 『Absolute Grudge Hatchet 『Kubidan』 it would need Defence Martial Skill to actually defend against that attack or else hatchet would be flicked off, and I will get hit by two blades at the same time.

Naturally, after seeing the activation of this Martial Skill, there is no room for evasion.

In the end, the only way for defence left for me is just one, but that is not a good way to defend——or so Ludora must've thought.

He only has Martial Skills activating with 'magic as a source', however, I have a weapon which can display its true worth against those. **[ED: Not sure what it means]**
[TL: Just means that Kurono can kick Ludora's ass!]

「Eat it——」

Now there was no red-bladed machete engulfed in black flames, but rather, an unrefined longsword made by using fangs of monsters directly.

The longsword which has Extra Magic to eat each and every sorts of magic was once my comrade's favourite sword called 『Fang Sword 「Evil Eater」 』. However it was now in my hands as, 『Hungry Wolf Sword 「Evil Eater」 』, a sword filled with grudge from dying with regrets.

I will use it at my free will, Vulcan.

「——Evil Eater!」

For taking on the attack called 『Heaven Beheading Scarlet Scintillation』 of Ludora, I held up this great sword in the place of shield.

The fang sword hungry for revenge and magical energy, and the scarlet blade clad in aura of fresh blood collided.

「——What!?!」

Maybe he had too much confidence in this Martial Skill, Ludora opened his eyes wide in surprise.

Though a longsword, I just held it up with my left hand. His attack had enough power to actually overpower my arm strength and easily flick off the sword.

However thanks to the ability of Evil Eater, the magical energy residing in the katana started to get sucked in from the point of touch at an accelerated speed. As a result the original power of the attack declined greatly.

In other words, the katana swung by Ludora just inflicted a little crack in the fanged sword and stopped before sending my body flying away.

I have finally completely stopped the attack. And now comes the counterattacks!

「Hmph!」

I swing the longsword in my left hand, at the same time Ludora pulled back his katana quickly.

If he still kept his katana stuck in the crack, then with the swinging of my longsword he would have to let go of his katana. He is worthy of praise to retain calm mind even after I stopped his sure-kill attack.

However the thing attacking him now is not the 『Hungry Wolf Sword 「Evil Eater」』, but

「Break!!」

I throw the gun in the 『Shadow Gate』 under my feet, and in return a new weapon was being held in my right hand now.

That was, the 『Mithril Sword』 shining with its divine silver light even in the darkness of the night.

In the end, Vampires are a type of an Undead, hence, Mithril having white magical energy in it can be said as a weakness to them.

I don't need to use Martial Skill, but just inflict a single wound on Ludora's body with this sacred sword.

「Kuh!」

Ludora bent his head backwards to escape the white trajectory, being traced in empty space.

There wasn't any response felt my right hand swinging the sword, but,

「Gaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhh!!」

Apparently, the tip of sword lightly had touched him. There was a straight thin short line made from blood on Ludora's face.

Burn, sound of flesh burning and somewhat smoke flew up from the wound.

The injury inflicted by the Mithril apparently is extremely painful to make even high life-energy wielders like Vampires to moan and groan. Ludora even tried to pin down the wound completely, reflexively.

And that was most fatal gap he had shown.

In an instant I let go of 『Mithril Sword』 from my left hand, and hold the hilt of 『Hungry Wolf Sword 「Evil Eater」 』 with both of my hands.

As expected, I need a Cursed Weapon to deploy Martial Skills.

「KuroNagi!!」

I aimed for the neck.

His trunk, covered in the coat, have enough defence to stop the Bullet Arts, in that case there is a chance that even my attack would be blocked. So the best place to inflict a critical damage would be the place with bare skin peeking out.

While spewing the same dark red aura as the hatchet, I aimed the Evil Eater at the abnormally pale neck of Ludora and sprinted towards him.

「Kuh, Oooooooooooh!!」

However, Ludora suppressed the pain with his fighting spirit, stepped forward and fixed his nearly broken stance.

At the same time, the katana held in his right hand moved.

Does he think of taking on my attack with that stance? It's useless. The current Ludora is in the same position as I was before, but there is no way he could stop my Martial Skill while holding a katana with one hand.

I strike the Martial Skill with all my might to flick off his katana, no, to cut him along with the katana.

「!!」

I felt some resistance with my hands, at the same time,

「GUuUUhhaaaaahhhhh!!!」

I let out a screaming voice and coughed up fresh blood.

Looking below, I saw a crimson red blade struck piercing through the blackened armour near my abdomen.

And the person who pierced me with the katana, Ludora, didn't have his head anymore.

「Kuh, hah.....just how tenacious is he.....to actually choose attacking rather than defend himself.....」

At the instant Ludora took my attack, he threw his katana in a straight line with all of his might.

My Martial Skill have captured his head completely, he also knew it but still he chose to attack, as if wanting to let me feel a stroke of his katana. I see, so this what a battle junkie is like.

I stepped back from that place as if retreating back, and took out the katana from my stomach. At that time Ludora's headless corpse also fell facing-forwardly.

As a natural result of having his head severed, a large quantity of blood dyed the grass and ground in red color.

In that red color, even the blood spewing out from my stomach, was also mixed.

「I somehow won.....」 [1]

My abdomen has been stabbed deeply, but if I were to die with this much, I wouldn't have been able to live past by the mobility experiments.

An injury like this isn't fatal for me, but of course if I don't stop the blood then surely I will die from blood loss.

Of course I won't let that happen, so I use my only healing magic 『Body Compensation』 to close the wound with a jelly-like black magical energy.

「I have to go towards the mansion fast」

The battle here is now over, even the wound isn't great enough to need a complete bed rest, I will probably not even feel the pain after using a potion.

I store both 『Hungry Wolf Sword 「Evil Eater」』 and 『Mithril Sword』 I threw earlier into the 『Shadow Gate』.

The Shadow Gate near my feet is still like a bottomless swamp, taking everything I threw into it.

As an exchange I took out a particular Magic Item.

This is a fragment of a crystal with a magic circle engraved on it. This is the transmission machine for Telepathy I had used in Alsace Village.

This was something I had thought to prepare after coming to Spada, but an official one was really expensive compared to this disposable one, hence the idea for its buying was something I had say farewell too.

Well this can work as a substitute so it's good.

「Lily, can you hear?」

Upon pouring the magical energy, the pale crystal fragment started to laminate and the magic needed to let my voice reach far-away Lily activates.

「Ah, Kurono, are you fine!？」

Hmm, loud and clear, the call is connected properly.

「Yeah, I'm done here」

I won't report me taking a damage in the stomach, after it at time like this it is great to show off one's cool side.

「I see, it's good you're fine」

Lily's deep heartedly relaxed feeling voice pierces my heart.

「How about there?」

Well from her voice I can already guess what happened,

「Yeah, we are also nearly done, you don't have to come in a hurry」

Told ya!

However, there was a possibility that there might be someone powerful among the bandits but looks like this time we didn't meet up with that 'impossible' turning point, well, all in all it is good.

「Got it, so should I head over to the mansion directly?」

「Yeah, I will be waiting at the front entrance」

“Roger”, I told her that and the crystal fragment reached its limit, the light vanished, and it broke in my hands.

I threw the remains of broken crystal, turned back and look at the corpse of Ludora.

Thinking back, it feels like it has been a while since I have killed a person whom I don't even hate.

No, this situation wasn't the same as when I forced to kill others in mobility experiments. I could've avoided fighting him if I had thought of that.

If I had given up on the bandits subjugation and returned back, there would've been no need to kill this man.

I killed this man based on my will.

It's is common among adventurers, not rare or anything else, it's nothing more mor less. I myself am quite satisfied with this theory.

But, the part that doesn't consents with that is,

「It was a great battle」

Something I will have to fill with the pride of winning a serious battle.

Ludora challenged me on his own will, I replied to it, the death from this result isn't something useless at all.

「Good-bye, Ludora」

Like that I left that place without turning back again.

Moreover strangely I didn't feel bad at all. [2]

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

1. In this chapter I finally understood why I didn't want Ludora to die! That is because he is more powerful than Kurono. That whiny kind person won just because of various variety of WEAPONS he had and not because of his own ability, and ofc he can't win in swordsmanship against Ludora. While Ludora actually had been against him with all of ability and a single weapon and there was almost not much of his weapon's ability! In the end KURONO SUCKS!!!!!!
2. Kurono starting to become bit by bit into Xianxia protags. Pfft joking not going to happen.

CHAPTER 254

CLEANUP OF BANDITS

Hearing the victory information from Kurono, Lily let out a sigh of relief as if the biggest anxiety factor had been removed.

「In that case, we also need to do what we can」

The top priority of backing Kurono was now gone, hence Lily stepped into the hideout mansion of bandits to do what she had to do.

The place she was headed to was the cellar. The mansion was big but she has already 'heard' about its location, hence she was able to find her way to the flight of steps downstairs without getting lost.

The light of the stairs leading to the cellar was not present making it seem like a deep black hole connecting to hell.

However, after turning into her true form, her two pairs of wings were shining brightly. Hence, she was able to walk without any problem as her surroundings were brilliantly illuminated.

Like that she kept on moving downstairs safely. Reaching there, she saw a big wooden door.

She touched the door knob and turned, but as expected it was locked. However if it was just locked, it can't be enough to stop Lily's invasion.

Lily stretched her delicate glasswork-like palm and light started converging there,

SFX: BoonnnNN!

Making a sound like that, the door knob vanished.

She opened the door while imagining the scene of Fiona trying to open the door, and the door's complete extinction.

「.....This is the worst, even more stinking than the nest of Morjura」

Lily raised her eyebrows to the scent coming from the interior of room.

The bloody scent of something like an animal made her guess what sort of works were being done in this place.

However it wouldn't be of any help if she stopped there. Lily just made an unpleasant face and kept on moving.

There was some faint light left burning in this cellar room, completely different from the stairs.

That was not a light coming from the fire of lamp, but a magic light made of magic.

Lily thought it might be the same way as the streetlights in Sapda work.

And, this mostly dark and somewhat illuminated cellar room told what the purpose for this room was.

The wall surface was filled with cold stone tiles and iron grills were placed as if blocking the entrance to a part of room. This was the first time Lily saw it, but she understood that this is a jail.

This underground jail room was quite big, hence it could accommodate many people too.

However the other side of iron grills was currently 'almost' uninhabited, the vast space was not being used effectively.

Yes 'almost' uninhabited means that there were still some people captured in this underground jail room.

「Uuugh.....」

On the other side of iron grills a white naked body crawling.

It was just one who moved, the rest were lying on top of the mat laid on ground, while being covered in a slightly dirty sheet.

Thinking upon it, currently it was around midnight. If just those men did not come and go from here, it would be the time for them to sleep.

「W-Who.....」

A girl with light green hair rose her body up from the mat.

Most likely due to knowing that such actions were useless in such a place, she made no effort whatsoever to cover her upper body

The girl looked at Lily standing on the other side of iron grills with her hollow eyes.

Conversely Lily also saw the figure of girl.

Her body had signs of being beaten, especially that swollen left cheek was painful to look at.

Seeing the precise signs of rape, most of the people would say 「cruel」 , but Lily's impression was 「She is a better state than I had thought」 .

Apparently the bandits had the hobby of being satisfied by just having intercourse with women, thankfully they didn't had any hobby of doing grotesque things.

Even Lily wouldn't be able to heal the torn limbs.

Lily confirmed the situation could still be 'made done with just her alone'. She didn't answer the girl's question, took out a key from her bosom, and put in the door of iron grills.

clang The sound of unlocking resounded, along with the unpleasant sound of rusty hinge rubbing.

「Ah.....You are saving us.....?」

A somewhat shaky yet filled with hope voice came out from the girl.

Lily entered the jail, went in front of the girl, smiled gently and opened her mouth.

「Hey you, are you eating food properly?」

The girl stiffened with a somewhat dumbfounded expression.

It was only natural. That was a question purely unthinkable by anyone in this situation.

However, it was a matter Lily needed to confirm right now.

「Answer me」

「Eh.....Y-yes.....」

Lily nodded in satisfaction to the girl's answer.

Of course, even without hearing her answer she more or less knew the situation.

The girl's body surely had signs of rape but her body wasn't haggard.

She didn't had any physical injuries, but she actually had emotional injuries along with fatigue.

Thinking on the purpose of these girls, it was needed to keep them healthy otherwise it would've troubled the bandits. Even they would not want to rape a girl with just bones and no plump skin.

「Ah, umm.....that is.....」

「Hm, this?」

Lily had already started taking her next actions.

That was creating a shining needle with her Extra Magic. Incidentally, it was in her right hand.

It was quite wrong to call it a needle based on its length and thickness. It might be more right to call it a somewhat narrow stake.

The girl looked at it, and thus, asked with a scared voice about what was that needle, no, what was she going to do with that needle.

「Don't worry, it won't hurt——」

Lily raised the thick and long needle overhead whilst showing an elegant smile.

The girl opened her eyes wide in fear and the long-withered tears started flowing.

「——And you'll forget it soon anyways~」

Like that, the swung down needle pierced deeply in the crown of the girl's head.

Lily felt the perfect resistance coming from the pointed end of needle. It meant that the needle had finally reached the brain, and at that point, Lily took her hands off of the needle.

The girl seemed to have fainted and fell on the thin mat with her white of the eyes showing in her wide-opened eyes.

「Now then, I need to complete the work before other girls wake up」

Lily again made needles of light in her right hand, and started stabbing the heads of girls' one by one.

Starting from that girl there were seven girls in total, and in within less than five minutes they all had a heartbreaking figure, having a needle piercing their heads.

However Lily seemed to be doing her work, there was neither sorrow nor guilty expressions on her face, as if she was doing the preparations for a dish.

After piercing everyone's head, Lily removed the old rage from every girls' body.

Seven nude girls were reflected in her eyes. On each and every girls' body were bruises from being punched or kicked, some even had welts as if they were whipped.

However Lily didn't pay attention to their scars, but rather their abdomens.

Their waists didn't seem to have any special change——in other words, it couldn't be made distinct by just looking.

Of course, there was no meaning in confirming about that, Lily's action from now were settled from before.

「In this healthy state, you all can handle it, right?」

Lily made a magic circle in empty space and took out a Scroll from it.

That was the last Scroll left during the defensive battle of Alsace.

Moreover, the magic engraved on it was,

「الدم—Life Drain—امتصاص روح من الطابعة الحياتية قوة تـ أخذ الطلاب جميع منح」

A forbidden magic which forcibly takes the life force of any and everything, let it be a soon-to-be-born 'young bird in an egg'.

.

.

.

I reached the meeting place, the front entrance of the mansion, and the person waiting for me there was,

「Kurono-san, thank you for your work today」

Fiona.

「Yeah, you too. What about Lily?」

「Lily-san is nursing the abducted girls」

「I see, so you saved them safely」

I can finally be relived, this only shows that it was worth coming to subjugate bandits.

「Shouldn't it be better if we go and help Lily fast?」

「It might be better if Kurono-san doesn't go」

I regret saying that. After all they had been through hell because of men, if I went there now it would only scare them.

「Sorry, you're right」

I'm powerless at these times.

I can't even use healing magic. In the end, I am relying on Lily.

「Yeah, so what happened to bandits?」

Rather than thinking negatively, it will be better to find something I can do.

If the bandits scattered and ran away then I can chase after them.

「The bandits were.....all killed」

「I see, but wouldn't it be better if you had taken one person as a prisoner, you see as a witness?」

「They resisted fiercely, so we couldn't help it」

Well, that also can't be helped.

The bandits are sure to be killed upon getting captured. If they can't even have a future after surrendering then it is natural to resist till their deaths.

「I want Kurono-san to report about bandit subjugation in Isckia Village, also ask them to send someone to take all the girls」

「Yeah, you're right」

We don't have carriages, in short we don't have any means to transport several girls to Isckia Village, and taking them while walking Will only make it worse.

Fortunately this place has a neat and clean mansion, so they can surely spend one night peacefully.

It's the best choice to leave the girls to Fiona and Lily and report about their rescue as soon as possible.

「But won't their comrades, I mean reinforcements come here?」

「It's fine, we heard that these were all the people living in this mansion, even the Slave Dealer Boss seems to be in Spada right now, so he can't make moves so suddenly」

Then it is fine. After all, the bandits were exterminated, their boss won't know of this fact unless he searches for it.

「Hm, if you have killed them all, where did you hear that information from?」

「T-That is.....we captured one bandit and interrogated him」

「So you captured one alive?」

「After interrogation he bit his tongue and died」

Suicide, eh. Well, it's not like I don't understand his feelings.

「Then I will head towards the guild now, say good luck to Lily」

The dawn is still far, but my eyes work all-too-well in the night that I won't have much difficulty finding the right path at even a time like this.

That's right, I even need to take Merry and Mary from that place in front of suspension bridge.

And here I was thinking of running all the way to the village.

「Okay Kurono-san, take care」

Fiona saw me off and I left that place at a quick pace.

Just wait, I will make sure to come for you all by tomorrow's morning!

CHAPTER 255

LILY'S PURPOSE FOR BANDIT SUBJUGATION

「Okay Kurono-san, Take care」

Fiona saw Kurono's back figure running like a gale, until he eventually left her sight, and then,

「Fuh, I somehow deceived him」

She heaved a sigh of relief while one long straight line of cold sweat traced along her face.

She returned to her usual expressionless face after overcoming the biggest climax of tonight, and she opened the profound double door front entrance located behind her.

Creak, the door opened making some creaking sounds. Inside expanded an entrance hall for showing the visitors.

In front was a stairway leading to the second floor, on the left and right of it were two long hallways. This mansion's structure can be said as an orthodox one.

Fiona entered the hall, she didn't show any interest towards this western-style mansion, but looked at the figures of a people wriggling in the centre of hall with cold golden eyes.

「Mpphh, Nnnnnhhhhhh~::~!!」

That sort of groaning voice reached Fiona's ears.

She didn't know what the figures said, but what that those people were trying to say was something she easily understood because of the current situation.

They were the bandits with ropes tied around their body and mouth gagged. In their mouths would only be either pleads for life or abusive words.

「I'm done here, what about Kurono?」

Among the frequent groans and panting sounds of bandits, a beautiful sweet voice resounded.

Of course the voice's owner was Lily, but right now she was in her child form.

However it can be understood from her way of talking that her consciousness was still that of an adult.

「As planned」

In the words of Fiona answering Lily's question, somewhat conceit was mixed, as if she had completed some work flawlessly.

「You did great there, but thinking it was you I was worried that you might blurt your mouth」

「What are you saying Lily-san, with my clever art of conversation I can easily defeat Kurono-san」

「Didn't you stutter there?」

Fiona kept silent.

「Well then shall we start our work. We don't have the time of even a complete night, so it will be problematic if we don't do it quickly」

「You're right」

Fiona nodded towards Lily showing a daring smile.

「Then——」

Thus, at that time Lily finally turned to face the bandits lying on the ground.

The colours of fear and anxiety appeared in the faces of men reflected in her rotund emerald green eyes.

All of them already understand that this fairy wasn't someone just cute.

「Who might be the leader among you people?」

Since they were gagged they weren't able to answer to her question.

However,

「I see, so you are the one」

Lily immediately stepped up towards a man with shaven head.

「Remove it」

Fiona quickly came up to the man and took out the gag punishment.

It was Fiona who tied up the bandits. Apparently she learnt the skill to tie humans from her Witch Teacher.

Lily gave words of admiration to Fiona as she knew various skills other than magic. Compared to her, Lily had always left alone without commanding others and hence never knew skills like this.

Naturally the conversation was done with various voice of anguish coming from the surrounding and hence it wasn't a really good scene to see.

Anyhow, having the gag removed, the man perceived to be the leader of bandits received the freedom of his mouth.

「H-how did you know...」

The man asked while still in a grovelling position, but,

「Ufufu, secret」

The answer was refused along with a cheerful smile.

The man knit her brows and made an unpleasant face as if seeing an impossible to understand lunatic.

「Don't make that sort of scary face, that's right, let's start with self-introductions. I'm Lily, and you are?」

「.....Robert」

Maybe knowing that resisting was futile, the leader of bandits Robert named himself obediently.

Lily was also convinced that it wasn't a fake name.

For Lily, a head of a normal human without any strong Protect casted on it was something that could be called, completely leaking stuff.

「I see, then Robert, I will ask you some things I want to know about, you will answer it right?」

「T-That is——」

「If you cooperate obediently then I won't kill you, of course, after this ends, I won't stop you if you want to escape」

「I will do! I will cooperate! I will do anything but just save me!!」

Robert showed his agreement to Lily's words. At that time the groans from the surrounding bandits increased.

It must be the voices of resentment against Robert, even if they were dim-witted lowly people like bandits, they knew that they won't be forgiven as such.

However, Lily wasn't concerned about their resentful complaints at all, she just showed a satisfied smile upon seeing Robert wanting to cooperate with her.

「Fiona you free him」

Fiona again moved while keeping silence.

Lily's words didn't have any hesitation in them, in other words even if this man was freed there would be no danger.

Of course, even if this Robert came attacking at them in the next instant, it would be more fast to shoot fire from her 『Custom Fire Ball』 . Moreover if he had ability to make a surprise attack then he wouldn't be right now tied up by this rope.

The difference in both parties' ability was quite obvious, and it was something Robert also knew. Even after being freed he didn't show any rebellious behaviour, but showed a relieved expression and stood up.

「First choose two co-operators from among them, it would be better if you choose strong ones」

「Yes, roger!」

Robert replied with energy and started his work promptly.

Probably, the lives of three people including him will be spared, turning this inside out means that any other people have no life.

It won't change even if they were gently delivered to Spada's Chivalric Order, or they were to be publicly executed on a guillotine.

The work of selecting their comrades' lives was indeed sinful, if Kurono was made to do this he would've cried and groaned, but apparently Robert didn't seem to feel anything.

He indifferently kept on selecting men with good physique compared to others.

Lily, while gazing at the scene, suddenly asked to Fiona standing beside her as if she had lot of free time

「Hey Fiona, do you still have that super creepy waking up potion?」

「I do have, but, what will you use it for?」

There's no way she wanted to enjoy the reactions of bandits drinking it.

「I want to drink it, obviously. It will be quite a long night, hence if I don't have something strong I won't be able to retain my consciousness till the end」

Fiona put her hand into her three-cornered hat, took out a single bottle of her handmade waking up potion, and hand it over to Lily.

Fiona already knew what Lily was going to do by this point.

Hence, Fiona gave an advice.

「It is alright to be in high spirits, but try to refrain from killing」

Lily replied with a elegant cheerful smile.

「*chuckle*, leave that up to me」

.
.
.

The first work for the three men including Robert was to move the seven girls from the jail to a guestroom with beds.

Fiona watched over the bandits left in Lobby while Lily monitored the work of carrying the girls.

「Come on, don't slack on the work, if you don't want to do it I can still exchange you people for some other three」

「Yes, Sorry Lily-san!」

Naturally, the three never got a chance to escape during work, but just worked with all their effort so as to not displease the mood of this small fairy.

As a result the work ended without any delay. The biggest reason for that was because the seven girls were in deep sleep.

If they don't have consciousness, then it won't make difference to be carried by people or furniture.

「Now move them all in the cellar room」

Robert and others promptly executed this command too.

The adventurers currently were just the fairy and the witch. Hence it can't be said as realistic to carry near twenty bandits to the village, even if they were to wait for the guild or Chivalric Order to come here, it would be more safer to throw them all in the jail.

Robert didn't think this command as strange too. For increasing his good impression in Lily's mind, he created a false act to smoothly guide his comrades, no former comrades, to the cellar room.

「Listen, it's not like you all will be executed immediately upon getting arrested. In that time if I talk it out with Boss, then good scenario you all will be released, bad scenario, we will make our way fighting up to you to save you all. Don't worry, just believe in me and Boss——」

The pitiable bandits genuinely believed in those sweet words. They just descended the stair leading to the dark cellar room without knowing what new fate was waiting for them there.

Like that they entered the big jail easily, just like sheep chased by a sheepdog.

Fiona again tied them up with ropes, she took off for their movements.

After completing her tiresome work without complaining,

「Then I will nurse the girls above, when you are done 'with the work here', please call me」

She said those words and left the cellar room. Just immediately after that it happened.

「Hey there must be something chair or table to tie a human, right? Bring it for me」

That moment Lily said those words as if just asking for a tea, it was natural for bandits, but also Robert who had his life guaranteed, felt a chill run up his spine.

「Y-yeah.....but, what will you use that for?」

「You will understand right now, come bring it」

Lily was indeed smiling innocently like a small child, but no one knows if she would still smile if they didn't do as she asked.

Robert called out the two co-operators while trembling in fear, and they brought out the table for tying from the interior of room.

At a glance that table seemed like a wooden bed present in cheap hotels, but there was thick leather belts attached on the edges.

The people who lay on this bed would get tied up with those tough belts, and won't be allowed to get up until the belts are removed.

Robert and others knew of this fact. They had used this table for its original purpose of torturing others, and sometimes they even tied up women to have fun.

Upon thinking that something like that would be used on that their fear increased.

「Then choose anyone from among them, lay him down on the table」

As expected, no it was only natural for Lily to ask someone to lay on this table.

「Umm, Lily-san, if you want to ask some information, we will answer anything, so that torture like things is——」

Although Robert had thrown his comrades, but he never wanted to see people he knew being tortured.

He had a conscience, he didn't want them to suffer and die. Hence, he unintentionally spoke his mind.

「I don't care if anyone of you three lie down on it?」

However, Lily disregarded his words. Even if she knew from Telepathy that Robert appealed it because of his humane feelings.

「I'm sorry, I will set it up immediately」

Robert obviously can't make her agree to his opinion while staking his life.

Of course, even if he was a just person who actually laid down on the table without taking his life in consideration, to Lily it would only change the sequence of people lying on the table.

Robert and others have already recognized this shining fairy with beautiful face as a daughter of a peerless cruel devil.

Their fate was already decided around the time they came in jail, no around the time Lily came in front of them.

Of course, even if they knew it from before they still wouldn't be able to bear the fear coming from the danger approaching them.

The young man lying on the table due to bad luck was resisting by flapping his body parts with all his strength.

His face was covered with tear and snot, since his mouth was gagged he was only able to groan by saying words without meaning like 「Ughh—Uggh—」 .

However, no matter how pitifully and miserably he resisted, there was no way he could get away from the hands of three men in his current state.

Robert frowned, the other two said 「sorry」 to him while setting the man on the table.

「It's done」

「*chuckle*, I appreciate your hard work」

The eyes of Lily saying false words of gratitude were already locked on the man tied on the table.

The man was still trying to resist with all his power, but the table just made some creaking sounds and there were no signs of belts loosening.

Lily was delighted towards this great torture table, and lightly jumped on the table.

The man only seemed to think of it like a death-god standing beside him and he finally even started shaking his head.

「Ah, I just want to tell you that I won't do something like torture」

Lily's shining fingertip danced in the empty space while she spoke those unbelievable words.

「Of course I won't do a private execution of you all. Hence I will guarantee that none of you will die on this table」

In an instant a magic circle was drawn in front of Lily.

She held her hand out to it, and a ring came out of the magic circle on its own.

「I just want you people to accompany in an experiment」

That was a simple ring without a standing out characteristic. Its size was as large as to just cover a person's head.

Robert and others thought it as equipment for wearing around the head, like a circlet.

「It will be fine, so relax, okay?」

The moment Lily's finger traced the outer surface of that smooth white ring,

Clang

Seven pointed needles protrude from the interior of the ring.

Naturally, it was at this moment that their impression of it changed from equipment to a torture device.

Like that, Lily again traced the outer surface with her finger, but this time the needles disappeared into the device. It became an ordinary ring.

Like that she moved without hesitation above the creaking table, as if she were going to play a prank on a sleeping person.

「ha ha~, with this many people I will surely understand how to use it too」

She placed the devil's Magic Item 『Angel Ring』 on the man who became the Experiment No.1.

CHAPTER 256

FIONA'S PURPOSE FOR BANDIT SUBJUGATION

The Royal Spada Academy's Knight Cadet Shenna was amidst her dreams.

「Auh.....Eddy is seriously.....an idiot.....」

Judging from her sleep-talk, the contents of her dream were too blissful.

Like that, after sleep-talking for some more, her consciousness finally awoke..

Normally Shenna would not have a good wake-up start, but today she was in a good mood upon waking up, probably because of the good dream.

「Ugh, it is morning already」

The bright sunlight coming from the window was interrupted by a white curtain, and illuminated the room as a gentle light.

Shenna understood from it that it was morning, but at the same time she felt uneasiness.

「Hm, Hmmm, Huh.....」

The first uneasiness was the spaciousness of room.

Looking carefully she realized that this room was not the room she used to sleep in, in short it was not a room in the girls' dorm of Academy.

「Huh, where.....is this?」

Upon realizing that she was sleeping in an unfamiliar room, Shenna's consciousness completely woke up.

「M-My glasses——」

The first action she took was to search for her glasses, which had been her partner since the enrolment.

The instant she tried to touch her surroundings reflexively,

「I'm sorry, but there are no glasses」

She heard the voice of an unfamiliar girl coming from just besides her.

「Who is it!？」

She raised her voice which almost seemed like a scream and turned to face her side, there was a girl in the 'witch' costume sitting on a chair while looking at her.

The light blue hair peeking out of her three-cornered hat, and the shining gold eyes were both impressive. She was a beautiful girl, to the extent that Shenna, being a girl herself, couldn't help but be charmed by her.

Maybe because she was being stared by those all-seeing golden eyes that Shenna was able to question the witch while retaining her calmness.

「Who are you? And why am I here...?」

The witch replied without hesitation as if she had already predicted that question.

「I'm Fiona Soleil. An adventurer affiliated with Rank 3 Party 『Element Master』 . This place is a mansion located near Isckia Village, there is no danger so relax」

Shenna heaved a sigh of relief hearing the words of Fiona as she understood that she won't cause harm to her.

「I'm Shenna, Royal Spada Academy's Knight Cadet. A second year student」

If other person names themselves, then according to Knight's manner, it is needed to name oneself also.

「Well then Shenna-san you might be surprised but still hear it by being calm. You were attacked by bandits on your route back during quest, and were abducted. Currently we have saved you and others」

「Eh, abducted.....eh?」

Shenna had no knowledge of the information she was just told about.

However, as if she also saw through it, the witch continued.

「It's natural that you have no memories of this. You have lost your memories of past few days, can you tell me what is the last day you remember?」

It was probably a question for confirming, hence Shenna tried to desperately search her memories.

The last memory she had was her going in the bed of her dorm.

That evening was just a day before she was to go with her childhood friend, Eddie's boys' party and her own party on a joint quest.

She was checking her potions, items and other things just before going to bed.

Although Eddie was the leader of boys' party, but after this long time of friendship she knew that he is careless in many places. Hence, she was doing her checking work of her equipments.

Like that she went to sleep, and upon waking it was the current situation. Just this memory flows in Shenna's mind.

According to her memory, yesterday's date was,

「E, err.....20th of Red Flame month」

「Today's date is 3rd of Platinum Month」

According to Shenna, today must be 21st of Red Flame Month.

However the day Fiona told was the date which was over ten days, even the month had changed.

「Eh, no waythat's a lie, right?」

「Looking at you, it seems like the memories are completely gone」

Gone or not, she had absolutely no recollection of that. For Shenna it was more realistic to think that this witch was deceiving her.

However she couldn't think of a reason someone would want to trap a normal Knight Cadet, and if it was someone's prank then this was the shittiest one, and complicated too.

If she were to believe Fiona's words, then the quest she was about to go on is something she had completed, and during that they were attacked by bandits——

「Eh, then, I, no, what about others!」

Shenna was not a child, although she was a student but according to her age she could be considered as an adult, a splendid adult that could fight against monsters,

Hence there was no way she would not know the meaning of being captured by bandits.

「The bandits captured you all for selling you all slaves. All four of you just had minor injuries; They all also should've recovered completely by now」

Hearing those words, Shenna reflexively threw off the futon covering her body and looked for bruises.

At this point she realized that she was completely nude, although it was embarrassing, but luckily there was neither a bruise on her body nor did it hurt anywhere.

It can be said as complete recovery, but to Shenna it felt like it was only natural that there would be no bruises on her body, as she slept yesterday just like this.

「Umm, my girls' party had four people, but there was a boys' party of four together with us」

「We have just rescued the girls present here, so we don't know any details about the attack」

Shenna's face immediately paled. Thinking properly, the male would be killed if attacked by bandits.

「It would be good if you don't think much about it, in some times someone from Guild will be coming here, at that time you may thinking, right?」

「Ah, yes..... you're right, sorry.....」

First she needed to confirm the truth, but because she had no memories, hence would need to confirm the information at Guild.

「I'm sorry Shenna-san, excuse me」

Fiona abruptly stood up.

Of course, she had no reason to stop her and so she looked her going out.

However, Shenna sighted a faintly shining crystal fragment in Fiona's hand.

「Is that.....transmission machine?」

There is Magic Item for talking from large distances, but it is high-class item that Knight Cadets can never get a hold of.

A diligent girl Shenna was acquainted with not just magic but also Magic Items, hence she knew that using that crystal fragment as an intermediary she would be able to talk to her friend, someone who has Telepathic ability.

In that case, it was plausible to think that a party member from 『Element Master』 had called her.

In less than five minutes, Fiona again opens the door and showed her face, and,

「Shenna-san, from now on my comrade will be coming in this room to sleep, sorry but can you look over her. Oh, the other girls' might also wake up soon so please brief them on the current situation」

She threw all of her work to Shenna.

「Eh? Wait a minute Fiona-san!？」

「My comrade is a fairy who just looks cute and is called Lily-san, so you can be relaxed. The other girls are sleeping in adjacent rooms, the doors have not been locked so you can enter as you want」

「Eh, as I want, that is——」

「In that case, I leave it up to you」

Fiona left after giving all the power to her.

「Eh, Eeeeeeh.....! I'm the side under protection, right.....?」

.
. .
.

Fiona opened the door of cellar room. Lily had blown the whole knob and now the door opens with just a light push.

「Ugh.....Uuuuaaaahhrrrrhhhhggghhhh~」

Inside the room those sounds of groans could be heard, moreover it was not just a single person but many people, hence the room was quite noisy.

「They look just like zombie」

The ruffians who were bandits yesterday night, right now had changed into people raising completely non-understandable groans in the jail cell.

Zombies are a type of inferior unintelligent Undead Monsters. However Fiona's guess was accurate to the extreme.

「Yeah, they all are disgusting, so dispose of them」

Lily spoke in a manner as if wanting the extermination of bugs in a garden. Although it was her who made the bandits into crippled zombies, but in that part she had got no guilt feelings at all.

Fiona didn't seem disgusted on Lily's attitude, after all if their positions were to be changed, she would've also done the same.

Although she also thought it was cruel, but an emotional reason couldn't become a perfect reason for her to stop, after all, both Lily and Fiona were aiming for supremacy without any wavering——yes, all for being helpful to Kurono.

「So... should I say thank you for your good work?」

Fiona moved towards Lily sitting on the bed-type table completely normally, as if she never saw the men squirming inside the jail cell.

「I'm seriously tired, next time I will do it only if I have enough time」

「Less than twenty people in a night, that is quite a lot of people」

The men inside the jail cell were all in crippled state, and this alone showed the fact that no one among them was able to escape from Lily's devil hands.

「But, it was a meaningful experiment, it can also be called successful」

「Successful? This?」

「Yeah, now I somewhat understand the way to use this」

Lily held a white ring, the deadly weapon 『Angel Ring』. It was the thing that turned the men into crippled zombies.

This 『Angel Ring』 makes it possible to control people at will, but the true effect doesn't work by just wearing it.

Lily's objective was to learn how to use this devil's device.

She had to put it on humans head and test the extent of its effect. In short, human experiment was an important factor that would prove itself useful.

And, though she hesitated to do it in public, a chance like this bandits subjugation where they wouldn't be blamed even if they killed all suspects was the best chance for performing the human experiment.

The reason she raised both her hands to agree with Kurono when he proposed the idea of bandit subjugation was only because she would get 'guinea pigs' in large numbers and nothing else.

「But, can you use it already?」

「Unfortunately it is impossible, for using it, I need to reform it, but well, if I do this couple of times more, then I will be able to use it completely...probably」

Fiona guessed that they she might have to yet again go on a bandit subjugation or a quest with similar conditions.

「Well then, I leave the rest to you」

Lily had just finished her work, so she jumped down the table and headed towards the door.

「Ah, Lily-san, one girl woke up」

「Is that so, how was it?」

「She seems to have lost all the memories after 20th of Red Flame month. This is quite a splendid measure」

Fiona honestly praised Lily's skill.

According to Lily, if they didn't do the after-care, it would become the same situation as with the survivors from Alsace.

And more than anything, if it went as nothing happened then Kurono would also be happy. She didn't want him to shoulder any more responsibilities.

Along with that, there were somewhat 'fairy-like' feelings in her, like she wanted their love to bear fruit. However, she never said this from her mouth.

「20th of Red Flame month, eh. It's good that it went fine」

In truth, it was also a gamble for Lily as to how many days of memory would be lost.

At the time with Cyprus, she did it without any mercy and hence it ended without taking minute factors into consideration.

It was quite difficult to remove precise amounts of memories, if it went wrong then she might've poofed her several years of memories, or even all of her memories.

However, she wouldn't say it from her mouth. Now that it went fine, Lily said it as if she expected that result.

「Ah, that's right, you were.....Robert, right? Thank you for the cooperation, you can go now」

Just before Lily opened the door, she turned back as if she remembered something and said that to the three co-operators.

「Hiiii.....T-Thank you very much.....Lily-san.....」

Robert spoke in a wavering voice as he stood up tottering.

They were made to do the work of affixing the 'experimental subjects' on the table, in other words, they were made to watch their comrades screaming in anguish, and it also meant, they had taken part in their despair.

These three were completely defeated mentally, they were basically broken in their mind now.

However, even so ,they somehow mustered up strength to walk now that they have endured the suffering and finally got hold of their freedom.

To the current them the smiling Lily standing in front of door might not seem like daughter of devil but rather a gently angel blessing their new departure,

「Ha, Haha.....I did it.....I fucking did it, with this I am——」

Maybe he tried to speak "I'm saved".

However that muttering was interrupted by an abrupt scorching heat.

[illegible]

The scream of three men echoed in the cellar room simultaneously.

「Aaaaaaaahhh, w-whyyyyyy, am I bbbbuurrrrrrrnninng!
Aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhh!」

Around the time he realized that, his feet were coiled with bright red flames and were being tormented by unbearable high heat.

Of course they wouldn't be able to walk, hence Robert and the two fell on the floor, and tried an useless attempt to remove the flames by flapping their legs.

「Don't ask me why, I said I will let you go, but that doesn't seem the same with Fiona」

Lily said while still smiling like a cute lovable child.

And with that he understood that she didn't had any intention of letting them return from the start.

「N-No way, save——」

Lily and Fiona both didn't wanted to hear any more than that.

Although the pleads for life and abusive words reach their ears, they didn't even enter their memories, let alone reach their hearts.

「Even so a ‘sacrificial ritual’, so you finally do something witch-like, eh?」

「I didn't had any intention to do it, but——」

Fiona now held an old-looking book that she took out god knows when.

The size and thickness was similar to dictionary, and the black covering over it made it seem just like a box rather than a book.

「I resolved myself to become a power for Kurono-san」

This book was the one Fiona had been searching in the library ever since the first day she went to the Academy.

She predicted that the book she was searching for would be in here, because she knew Spada country had a quite long history along with the fact that it also had a magnificent library.

And, her guess hit the right mark.

「Haha, wanting sacrifices for giving Divine Protection, eh. Indeed there are evil gods out there too」

「If that wasn't the case it wouldn't have been banned and marked as forbidden」

The book Fiona took out of the forbidden sealed area of The Great Library was a Spell Book called 『The Guide to Ten Thousand Demon Palace』 .

The content in it were the evil acts needed to done for gaining the divine protection.

And that was something that would provide Fiona the 'power' she needed currently.

In this bandit subjugation, if Lily's objective was human experiments, then Fiona's objective was to offer sacrifices to God.

That was why she didn't want Lily to kill the bandits, changing the point of view, it meant she could anything with them but not letting them die.

「Is it fine to take it out without permission?」

「It's fine, when I get done with it, I will return it back」

Thinking back, she remembered faintly that a skirt-chased prince of Avalon called Nero or Ero or whatever, who accused Kurono of false charges, did warn her to not go in there.

However, again re-thinking upon it, there doesn't seem to be any problem with it.

After all she borrowed the book without being noticed by anyone and was going to use in the right way.

「In that case, let us finish before Kurono-san comes back」

Like that, Fiona looked at the sacrificial sheep with unimpressed despising golden eyes, turned over the rotten hard cover of book, and started the forbidden ritual.

「I offer to thy god of all evil——」

CHAPTER 257

VAMPIRE DIED TWICE

A black figure, as if crows were covering a dead corpse.

The headless corpse of the man had shadow clinging on it, but if one looked closely one can understand that they weren't crows but rather bats.

Those bats were the servants created by the vampire Ludora lying on the ground.

Although they were all called Servants, there were various ways to create them. One was to train monsters right after capturing them, other was to create golem from inorganic substances, and this bat servant was made from the use of one's own flesh, in short, it was something like clone of the main person.

It was famous that bat Servants were created by vampires, even Ludora was no exception and was using them. It was these Servants work that allowed Ludora to know from before of Kurono and others approach to the mansion.

The reason these loyal and superior bats were clinging on the headless corpse of their owner was neither for eating him nor mourning.

Even the villagers with no knowledge regarding magic would understand what his order might have been if they saw the scene occurring here.

Firstly, the Servants cancelled their bat form and returned to their true form.

That form was blood. Just like ice melts the bats transformed into dark red liquid in a flash.

Like that the puddle of blood moves like a slime, and enters through the severed veins from the cross-section of head.

No, it was more like the body was absorbing its blood clone.

Just like how a thirsty person drinks water, this body thirsty for blood sucks in all of its clones.

Immediately after absorbing the last clone, the fingertips of headless corpse twitched.

That was neither the prank of wind nor rigor mortis reaction, but rather something he did with his own will.

Like that the will takes over control of whole body, as a result, the headless corpse stood up-straight at that spot as if normal.

No, it wasn't a corpse anymore, but rather a headless person.

The body moved while staggering somewhat, towards its lost head.

The blue eyes had already captured the scene of the body coming near it.

Like that, making a movement as if picking up a lost property, the head was held up and placed on the place it should be, like that, there stood Ludora who had a life and death struggle just before.

「Inexperienced, eh.....」

The resurrected Ludora spoke those words at first.

Those were not meant for Kurono who didn't deal a perfect final blow to a vampire like but, but it was meant for the defeated himself.

「For me to survive the second time using the Extra Magic of True Vampire」

Vampire have powerful magical energy and power both, but are in minority, however among them, there is a race, no, a blood relative that is even more scarce, has more powerful abilities and can also use a special Extra Magic.

Those were called as True Vampire and are said to have the blood of the vampire's progenitor running in their veins.

And Ludora was one of those special relatives.

Several tens of years back, the time young Ludora was defeated first time, he was brought back to life with the help of the Extra Magic of True Vampires, the 『Nos Ferat
』

This was the second time he died, but this time he was not shocked, but rather was able to keep his heart calm, due to that he was able to feel his growth since those days.

「This time too I barely escaped death」

Though the magic was named boldly as 『Nos Ferat』 its effect was not absolute.

The amount of times he could use it was only once and only for fatal wound, if he were to receive fatal strikes two times consecutively then he would not revive, even if his head and heart were to be destroyed.

There are other exceptions too, if he were to take on attack from Light Magic or mithril, both which happen to be weaknesses of Undead, then the wound won't heal.

In other words, if Kurono had stabbed Ludora in the heart after cutting his head, or cut his head with Mithril Sword, then Ludora's death was fixed.

「But this also can be said as fate」

Ludora muttered. He accepted the fact that he lost.

It would be lie if he said he didn't feel vexed, but, like this he was able to survive, hence he got another chance to fight against the strong foe called Kurono.

What else can this be said if not good luck, of course, the old him would not have been able to understand this.

The young Ludora wouldn't understand anything as he was just being haughty because of the power of True Vampire and the Divine Protection powers.

「If I'm not meant to die currently, then I shall walk the sword way for some time more」

Muttering that, Ludora picked up his favourite katana lying beside him.

The reasons why Kurono didn't take this katana with him may be because of victor's sympathy, or he valued time more, otherwise he would collect it after finishing the subjugation, or finally, he just forgot it.

There was no definite answer for that, but anyhow the 『Bloodsucking Princess 「Scarlet Dye」 』 returned to Ludora.

It was at the time he was about to store the katana in the scabbard.

「.....Hm?」

He realized the change.

The sword blade was bright red coloured, but the tip of sword strangely was darkened.

At a glance it might seem like a bloodstain, but this katana as its name says is a 'bloodsucker', hence it absorbs any blood that sticks to it.

And in truth looking more carefully he understood that there was no blood stuck on the blade but the blade itself had its colour changed.

「Don't tell me——」

The next moment, the black colour spread on the whole sword blade as if ink fell on it.

The change was not only on the outside, but Ludora felt the katana pulsating and also felt the wild flow of magical energy in the sword.

Since the change was too sudden, hence the end also came abruptly.

Before he noticed it, the red bladed katana Ludora held in hand had changed into a jet black katana.

From the sword with same hue as dark night, a red aura was rising as if the blood itself was being evaporated.

「It evolved.....?」

Ludora remained calm even after escaping the grasps of death, but at this time even he had his eyes round with a surprised expression on his face.

「*giggle*, I see, looks like princess liked Kurono's taste just too much」

He immediately knew the reason, the last slash, no, last thrust, that attack certainly pierced through Kurono's armour and stabbed his abdomen.

It was not enough to give a fatal wound, but apparently that amount of blood was enough to satisfy the appetite of this bloodsucking cursed katana. [1]

「Well then, I also need to train」

Ludora sheathed the katana this time with a satisfied smile on his face, and left the place without making any sort of sound.

CHAPTER 258

BLISS OF AMNESIA

The new work of rising and energetic Rank 5 party 『Wing Road』 was the popular topic in the City of Spada.

Their new work was that they captured the wirepuller behind the bandits who had been rioting in Fauren recently before Chivalric Order or Law Guardians reached them.

No one knew how they found out the identity of the wirepuller, but they entered the headquarters of that Slave Dealer which happened to be a mansion in Upper Class Area, fought, and splendidly rescued the girls that were captured there.

There was even the information that among the girls abducted was the daughter of an influential noble in Fauren, if they had saved her a day later she might've been sold off to some distant foreign country.

The swift rescue of Wing Road had various overbearing parts or so the Chivalric Order had complained, but against their big achievements it got stuffed somewhere and now there was no-one who would criticize them head-on.

If it went bad then it might've given rise to diplomatic problems with Fauren, more than anything the girl they saved was a 'high-class item', meaning there was no injury of any sort on her, of course, chastity included.

The bad Slave Dealer was captured, beautiful girls were rescued, happy ending.

However, it wasn't like everyone who was involved in this matter had a happy conclusion.

For instance take this one young man here.

「Shit.....Damn it.....」

His name was Eddie, a Second Year Knight Cadet commuting to Royal Spada Academy.

His appearance and family both were totally normal, Eddie was just your any young man in Spada. However, he was the only person who succeeded in escaping after their party was attacked by those aforementioned bandits.

「Damn it, don't fucking kid with me——」

Eddie unintentionally punched the wall while walking on the street.

That was because he heard a student he passed by before saying that the matter ended peacefully now that the wirepuller behind the bandits of Fauren was captured.

No, the student wasn't the only one speaking in a carefree manner, but actually all the people in the city would just speak that the case ends happily now that the lady from Fauren was rescued and wirepuller got arrested.

And the party which completed it, Wing Road, announced their accomplishment of their success in quest 『Subjugation of Bandits of Fauren』 .

「——It ain't damn over yet!」

Without caring for the puzzled gazes staring at him, Eddie shouted.

For him this matter was still now over, there's no way it would end, unless he rescues his best friends——and his childhood friend Shenna from those bandits.

The day they were attacked, the reason Eddie alone was able to run away wasn't because he abandoned his friends.

Against people with more ability than them, they made a plan to let one run away and bring in reinforcements.

In that live-or-die, no, die-or-be abused situation, no one objected the plan and let Eddie run away.

The reason they chose Eddie was because of his ability, they thought he would be able to shake off the bandits and reach the Isckia Village.

Like that, under the cover of his friends, Eddie stole one horse of the bandits and escaped from that place at full speed.

Before that time he had never thought that taking the horse-riding classes would be so helpful.

He was able to make the horse run faster, but also used Boost for using the Martial Skills and Cure Magic for exhaustion recovery. All the skills were on the level of being able to withstand a true fight, hence finally he was able to successfully escape.

However, everything did not end with just that.

Eddie returned to Isckia Village, intruded the Adventurers' Guild and petitioned for a rescue squad.

Like that a rescue squad was made and they departed——however the bandits one step higher in taking fast actions.

Eddie reached the campground site on that evening, but there were only three dead bodies of his best friends, comrades in arms, and nothing else was present.

「Damn it, Shit.....what the fuck is Hero Party 『Wing Road』 , do damned shits. A hero is one who saves all people」

Eddie again started walking around the Spada City while muttering complaints towards the young heroes.

The pain from punching the wall felt extremely vacant.

「I don't need anyone else.....I will go and save you all alone.....」

Eddie had been searching for help till this time of today.

Aside from his party members, there was no corpse of Shenna nor her party, surely they were taken by bandits alive, so, he still had comrades he had to save, Eddie didn't had time to rest.

The rescue squad formed in Isckia Village disbanded after bandits had ran off, the job after that was of Vigilante Corps or Chivalric Order.

Eddie could only have prayed that they would find out the hideout of bandits.

However he couldn't have hoped that they would use personnel for commencing a large scale search, as the girls were just normal adventurers.

The Chivalric Order would only do their work normally, at the same time, Eddie understood that the matter won't be ending immediately.

Hence without waiting for Chivalric Order to defeat the bandits, Eddie started to move for recruiting new adventurers for heading to rescue.

However it took till today's time for Eddie to understand that it was an impossible plan.

It wasn't that much problem in posting the rescue quest in Guild, even the reward amount was somehow made done by the help of the victim's families.

However there was not a single adventurer who took on the quest.

Fighting against bandits is more risky than fighting against monsters.

Especially in case this time with a wirepuller with power and influence to some extent. If it went bad they would be in a bad state of getting avenged anytime.

Hence, unless the bandit subjugation is an emergency quest the adventurers don't easily participate in it, even if they have enough power.

Eddie had been frequently visiting the Guild, and also asked many adventurers even by bending down.

The result of that wasn't favourable can be explained from the fact Eddie was still present in the Spada City.

Moreover with Wing Road capturing the Slave Dealer the other day, others finally started to think of not getting involved in this 'already concluded case' anymore.

The charm of bandit subjugation was that the number of bandits rampaging around equates to that much of victims appearing.

That is why, upon finishing it, the fame one gets is quite high.

Anyone can understand that if they see Wing Road getting words of admiration from anyone in the city.

However, with their announcement that the matter is now settled, the charm of that quest swiftly disappeared, to the extent that it was the lowest grade of quest now.

「Fuck! I will.....I will.....」

This situation definitely wasn't because someone was in the wrong.

It is the legitimate right of Adventurers to refuse a quest, Wing Road just happened to complete it in their place.

It's not like anyone had the bad intentions of making Eddie suffer, just that, there was no one appearing to save Eddie, no, the captured Shenna and others.

And for something like that to occur as if normal is the true reality of the world.

「I will.....save them」

However, although an adult, Eddie was too young to accept such harsh news.

Eddie resolved to save them alone if no-one decided to help.

However to others it would only seem like he doesn't assess the situation correctly and is trying to do suicide in a funny way.

In the first place, where was the hideout of bandits who captured Shenna and others? Were they hiding somewhere around Isckia Village? Maybe they went to Fauren or they might've gone to some different country.

Let's say if he were to luckily find out their hideout, but, how will he save the girls?

8 people including Eddie were one-sidedly defeated against three bodyguards, so there's no way he could win against them alone.

Then sneak in without being spotted? That would've been possible if Eddie's class was Assassin and the target for rescue was just one.

There was no way he would succeed, but, there was no one point that out for him, no even if someone pointed it out, it would be impossible to stop Eddie.

He was a young Knight Cadet with promising future, so being an apprentice Knight, how could he abandon his comrades.

However if Eddie was from Civil Course, even then he would've gone to say them alone.

Thinking about his hard to please childhood friend facing hard times right now, Eddie just can't help but want to save her.

「I will go, even if it's just me——」

He hardened his resolve and in his brain appeared the figure of that girl who had been with him since childhood.

「I will save Shenna!」

「Eh.....Eddie?」

At that moment he thought the words that reached his ears were a auditory hallucination.

That was because the voice was just too similar to a certain girl's voice.

「.....Huh?」

He turned back on reflex and this time a hallucination was reflected in Eddie's eyes.

After all, the person he resolved to rescue just a moment ago was standing in front of him right now.

「W-Why did you suddenly shout out, don't scare me!」

Green coloured pigtails, an average girl without any standing out characteristic, the only characteristic, her glasses, were not there, it was the face that she used to have some years back, however with just that difference there was no way he would not recognize her.

However, Eddie couldn't help but ask her.

「Are you.....Shenna?」

These words were not for confirmation, but rather a prayer wishing that this illusion in front of her were real.

「Geez, who else do I look like, don't tell you don't recognize me because I don't have my glasses?」

To the words clinging on the faint hope, she showed her affirmation. It was the same as when they were arguing some days before in the Academy over a foolish subject.

「A-Are you really Shenna.....how.....」

「Even if you ask me how. Well, I got saved after getting captured by bandits and just returned to Spada, err, seriously I don't feel any reality in this because I don't have my memories——」

Eddie wasn't able to understand the vague ending words of Shenna right now, but,

「Shenna it is truly you, right.....you were saved right?」

「Uh-huh, that's how it is」

The next moment Eddie embraced Shenna tightly with his two hands.

As if not wanting to let her go even if she were a dream or an illusion.

「Eh, Wait, Eddie!?!」

「I'm so happy, Shenna, I, I——」

Shenna embraced him back with her face bright red, while Eddie was weeping so hard that his words didn't make any sense anymore.

CHAPTER 259

BANDITS OF DAEDALUS

Thieves, Bandits, Pirates— they have many names, but there was a time period during which these 『rebels』 who attack innocent people and plunder life and money unceasingly appeared.

That was right after wars.

The changing of remnants of lost army change into rebels. That was something which occurs as if natural in both Pandora Continent and Arc Continent.

The time goes back to 7th of Distant Thunder month, in the Goldran Hills where a big war took place.

The army of humans called Crusaders that came from across the sea defeated the Daedalus army lead by the King of Black Dragons.

And the remnants of destroyed Daedalus Army,

「Those annoying demon race, so they finally show their true evil personality」

Now had turned into bandits freely rampaging in the territory of Daedalus now controlled by humans from Syncrea Republic.

「That young man Liuchrome is too half-hearted, the soldiers and people who are demons are demons, because he didn't get rid of them that its now like this!」

The person whining while breathing heavily was Count Belgunt, the head of Crusaders' Noble faction and also the man with the responsibility of conquering Spada.

His eyes were green due to the colour magical energy of wind, but right now it might have seemed red due to his anger.

He was in the prime of life, but his tall body didn't show any signs of aging, rather, he was wearing a light armour covered with gorgeous silver ornaments, it also gave a

high magic resistance, hence the armour has fused the beauty and bravery of a noble into one.

On his waist a custom-made personal Mithril Rapier was hanging down, and on his back was a dark green longbow that could make the maximum use of wind attribute.

The reason he was completely armed was not because he wanted to go on demon hunt to seethe his anger, but because he didn't had any choice other than subjugating the rebelling demons rioting.

This place was Alsace Village——no, now this place was a strong fort called Alsace Stronghold, it would be the frontline base point when attacking Spada, at the same time it would be the defence for protecting the Republic of Daedalus.

It was only the other day when Count Belgunt heard about demons appearing in large numbers in this Alsace Stronghold, where soldiers were being trained and other war preparations were being done under the control of the Count.

The group was mixed with beast people, Orc, Lizardmen, and other races, all wearing black armour. Moreover their movements weren't of a newbie, but of veterans from wars.

Even normal peasants would understand that those rebels were the remnants of Daedalus Army.

As a bonus recently, not after the fight in Goldran, but after the Platinum Month started, the movements of these former Daedalus soldiers have increased.

There have also been rumours that the remnants of army might be scattered here and there in Daedalus territory and might be planning to recapture the capital city.

Whatever the authenticity might be, it was the truth that bandits were being rampant, this was a grave problem for Crusaders, even more for Belgunt who was to start a war against Spada in the near future.

If internal conflicts arose then they won't have room to attack other countries, even if it doesn't come to that, it would still break off the logistical support and danger would increase.

If one looks back on the military history of Arc Continent, they could find numerous same sort of cases.

He wanted to commence the attack by next month, but with bandits rampaging inside he couldn't start the war even if we

he wanted to, it would be better to first cut the source of anxiety.

Hence he complains about the real commander of Crusaders and also the person responsible for Daedalus's public order maintenance.

「What about the situation?」

He got out of Alsace Stronghold, straddled over the already prepared dapple-gray coloured horse and asked his subordinate.

「There has been no new information, the rebels are believed to be remaining Kwarl Village」

A soldier wearing steel helmet and surcoat better than normal soldiers replied fluently.

「There was a wall in Kwarl Village, right. Argh, such a tiresome place.....」

If he thought on the number of soldiers he owned, then it was easy to take control of the group of bandits.

However he didn't want to exhaust his soldiers for some useless work, and more than anything else, there had been an abominable precedent on this land of Alsace he was standing on.

「No, that's why, although being lowly demons, they have intelligence.....and there is also the rumour about recapturing the capital city, this might be one link of it」

In any case, he must attack the Kwarl Village and get rid of the bandits as soon as possible.

After finishing the departure preparations Belgunt came in front of his best troops and started thinking over the plan to capture the village protected by a wall.

Even if he departed right now it would be until the day after tomorrow before he reaches Kwarl Village.

In the eyes of Belgunt gazing at the clear sky with sun nearly crossing the meridian, a figure of a person was reflected.

「Hmm, That is.....」

Belgunt's eyes were enhanced by magic to always have sharp sight, hence he was able to notice that person's existence faster than others.

However the person with sun as the background was flying at quite high speed without any hindrances, so soon enough his subordinates also noticed.

And around the time the soldiers were getting noisy about that person flying towards them, Belgunt's eyes already confirmed who the person really was,

「7th Apostle.....Lord Sariel!？」

A little time later, a young girl straddling on a pure-white Pegasus came down from the sky.

He was a Count and the supreme commander of the soldiers gathered here, but they weren't able to stop the girl from appearing directly in front of him without any hesitation,

There was room for doubt among who had the higher status among an Apostle who an existence most near to God or a just a Count which controlled humans.

No in truth having this peerless beauty emitting a white aura before their eyes, all the soldiers could only gaze at her dumbfoundedly.

「Sorry for the sudden visit, Count Belgunt」

The 7th Apostle Sariel, calmly landed down on ground from her Pegasus and around the time she said those words, Count Belgunt was already down from his horse and was falling prostrate.

「No, we are sorry for not giving a proper welcome to you Lord Sarel, but currently we were about to depart for getting rid of demon bandits——」

The inspection of Alsace Stronghold was held just recently, so for what reason had she come here suddenly. Belgunt started thinking bad things about her visiting at such a time.

However, as if telling that God doesn't take notice of a normal person's problems, Sarel replied in her usual flat voice.

「I have already set free the Kwarl Village」

She took out a bundle fastened on the Pegasus's saddle and gave it to Belgunt.

This scene might look like a divine one where a beautiful girl gives the gift from God to a noble in splendorous armour, however the bottom part of the white cloth was stained with dark red colour as if violating the divineness of cloth.

「T-This is.....」

Belgunt had already guessed what it was because of his instinct, but getting his guess hit the right spot, he unexpectedly let out a voice of surprise.

「The boss of bandits」

He unwrapped it and there was a face of an ogre with an expression of anger and eyes open wide.

Belgunt had experienced lots of wars, but seeing the freshly severed head of the Orc seeming to become an Undead and move on its own, an unpleasant sweat arises.

However he wasn't surprised to the extent of just staring in trance, Belgunt immediately understood the meaning this held.

In short, 7th Apostle Sarel barged in the Kwarl Village solo, and annihilated them.

Moreover it might have happened this morning.

「I beg your pardon for making Lord Sarel bother with this work」

「It wasn't difficult」

Sariel replied without wavering her deep crimson eyes.

As she said, Sariel truly might've not had any trouble taking on the bandits by herself.

For her cutting the head of a brutal Orc and signing the documents are both the same, in other words, just one more boring work.

Belgunt was also a person the Republic, he had heard the legends of Apostles since childhood, and, after becoming adult, he still hears about their new exploits.

However after seeing a fragment of that overwhelming valour, he felt an indescribable awe along with a sense of emptiness.

「Thank you very much, we also didn't want to waste our soldiers before invading Spada. I want to thank Lord Sariel for her work——」

「Please don't worry about it」

There was nothing behind her words, but Sariel truly felt that there was no need for it.

「After all it is my mission to deal with all the spreading bandits in the territory of Daedalus as soon as possible」

Apparently Archbishop Liuchrome seemed to have been making use of Sariel's power rather than keeping her in one place as a fake commanding general.

The person herself, as the 7th Apostle had been reputed, she was completing the mission quickly.

As if to say her work was done, Sariel turned back and again straddled on the Pegasus.

Like that many thought she would just fly away, but,

「I'm also wishing the Spada Invasion to happen fast, Count Belgent, let the divine protection of God be with you」

Unexpectedly, she gave out words of blessing. Count Belgunt rose up his head that he had bowed for sending her off.

However, by that time, Sariel was nowhere to be seen.

Count Belgunt told his subordinates who were looking towards the horizon just like himself.

「Everyone, did you hear the words before. Lord Sariel is expecting good things from us, so we need work harder for commencing the Spada Invasion as soon as possible!」

A second later, the Alsace Stronghold was filled with cheers as if trying to shatter the whole stronghold.

Although they were also Crusaders, they were soldiers of nobles, compared to the soldiers of Church, their piety was low.

However there was no man in the Republic who won't cheer up upon getting words of encouragement from a beautiful Apostle of God.

That was the same for Belgunt too who was leading the army for various motives.

Currently, he forgot all of his interests, and cheered up from the bottom of his heart with a strong sense of duty for completing the holy wish of God.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Volume 15 ends with this chapter.

It's been a while since Sariel's last turn. Looks like she is doing her work properly.

16th July 2012

The result of Dengeki Bunko was, I didn't had enough writing prowess and failed in the primary elections. I'm sorry for this sad notification. [1]

Therefore I am thinking of posting this defeated work over 'Let's become a novelist'. The title is,

『Nightmare World』 [2]

I will post it in several turns starting from today. Though it failed, but I didn't slack down on it, and it is a work I wrote seriously. If you like it then please read it alongside with Kuro no Maou.

Oh, and the heroine is a Yandere.

Well then, please look forward to it.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE:

1. The books that fail in any of the three elections, basically elimination rounds, are not given the result fast but are again re-read lot of times for any other evaluations and hence the results come 4-5 months later from the day of entry. Novels which pass the top 20 get the result by next month. Just like I got.

2. This novel is already completed is not more than 40-50 chapters, probably. I never read it so don't know much about it.

